

# LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!  
November, 2024

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**Our next meeting is Monday, November 4, 2024**

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

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### Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Guest Speaker – none scheduled for this month
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)

### Dates to Remember

- October 28-31: Phase 2, fall leaf collection; rake leaves into the street
- October 31: **Happy Halloween**; Wausau Trick or Treat Hours are 4:00 – 7:00 PM
- November 3: Daylight Saving Time ends; turn clocks back 1 hour
- November 4: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- November 5: **Election Day**
- November 9-10: Hmong New Year Celebration; Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center; 10101 Market St., Rothschild;; admission fee
- November 11: **Veterans Day**
- November 28: **Happy Thanksgiving**

*Wausau Winter Market, November 2024 – April 2025: 8:00 AM – Noon, Whitewater Music Hall*  
*Marathon County Historical Society Vintage Game Night – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 October 7, 2024 Meeting

- There wasn't anything to report so Officer John Shear didn't have a Briefing Sheet this month.
- The Community Partner Campus had some concerns about potential drug use on or near their property; the Wausau Police Department is working with them so it doesn't become a problem.
- Michael updated us on what is happening in the City.
- The City Council continues to work on the budget. The first public session is Wednesday (you can attend in person or stream it on-line). It includes discussions on capital projects and TIDs. The numbers for 2025 will be reviewed Monday, October 14; healthcare costs are increasing (possibly 15%), negotiations with the Wausau Police and Fire Departments are on-going.
  - The goal of replacing approximately 520 lead lines in the City this year is still moving forward. The target for 2025 is expected to be 1,500 residences;
  - Michael discussed the Parks and Recreation Department. The City Council ratified a "continuation of Services" agreement and is currently working on finding efficiencies and possible redundancies in the middle management layer. A basic organization study will be conducted to determine if splitting from the County is the best choice.

Ann discussed several items with the group.

- Marathon County is doing a Gap Analysis study to help determine how to spend some of the opioid settlement funds. The Board of Health and the Health and Human Services committee will hold a joint meeting to discuss the needs of residents with substance issues; the meeting will be live-streamed. There are limited options available for those with substance issues, including a waiting list at the County long term drug assistance facility.
- It's still budget season but it is expected the county mill rate will decrease this year. There is concern that services will be cut if a funding increase doesn't occur in next year's budget process.
- Ann discussed her concern that UWSP-Wausau may be closed as some other satellite campuses have been. Although enrollment has been declining, UWSP-Wausau Chancellor Gibson doesn't anticipate that happening here. There is a reasonable amount of scholarship money available for UWSP-Wausau students; a recruiter has also been hired to go into the local high schools to generate interest in attending the local campus.

Other topics discussed at the meeting:

- One of the residents shared that the tenant in the 300 block of Seymour, discussed at several recent meetings, has received a notice from the landlord to vacate the premises.

Dustin Kraege with the Department of Public Works (DPW) spoke with the group about the upcoming fall leaf pick-up.

- Dustin shared that the fall leaf collection receives the most complaints of all City services; leaf collection and the yard waste site cost the City about \$500,000 each year. Phase 1 will be a "spot collection" where vacuum trucks remove leaves from the boulevards. Phase 2 (beginning on November 7) will be baling leaves and may be delayed by a week or two depending on the weather. The DPW is looking at ways to help reduce the cost of the program.
- The DPW has also begun preparations for the upcoming winter season.
- Dustin shared that the DPW consistently look for ways to improve the skills, and morale, of their employees. One of those ways is through a "rodeo" competition in which drivers complete "real life" situations and obstacles (such as the proper way to go around corners and how to avoid parked cars). Dustin would like to see a permanent training area to help the newer drivers learn the necessary skills to perform their jobs in a safe and efficient manner.

### **Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024**

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

Hi everyone! Our next meeting will be on Monday November 4th. A reminder that everyone is welcome, not just home owners! As always, you can reach out to me with questions, issues, concerns, or recommendations for upcoming meeting topics at [longfellowN2N@gmail.com](mailto:longfellowN2N@gmail.com). See you at the meeting!

Michael Martens, Wausau District 2 Alderperson

October is budget season for the city and the mayor, finance director, and finance committee are working hard to produce a fiscally responsible budget for 2025 that delivers the quality of services the residents of the city expect. Coming into this budget, we knew that we would have significant challenges related to the recent property reassessment, contract negotiations with the three unions, and rising health insurance costs. When the draft budget was presented to the committee, it had almost a 9% increase in it. But with hard work and a bit of luck, we whittled that increase down to 3.1%. That's the lowest increase we've had in ten years and keeps us under the rate of inflation. Here's a few things that happened in our favor. Union contract negotiations, while not complete, are going well. We've been able to reduce our health insurance increase from 15% to 2.5% by switching providers, and departments were asked to submit 2.5% in decreases to expenses or 2.5% in revenue enhancements, which helped us cut a fair amount of fat and find new opportunities in the budget. The biggest change will be in how we will do parking enforcement

downtown. More details on that will follow. Right now the final number for the budget is still preliminary and there could be slight changes as it finishes up through committee and the council, but I am confident that we have a responsible product that has the best interests of the city's taxpayers in mind.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

November is the month when the county budget is adopted, and the Board has been working for months to gain understanding, gather input, and finalize spending. The administrator presented his budget address on 10/17 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccUzy90zSYg&t=297s>) which was accepted and has a scheduled Public Hearing on November 1st @ 3:00 PM in the County Courthouse. This is one of your best chances to weigh in. I feel satisfied with the budget as a whole being that no services were cut and we were still able to give a reasonable increase to our employees and not incur any new debt through borrowing.

Later this month, on 11/8, any proposed amendments to the budget are due so that on 11/11 the Human Resources, Finance & Property Committee (HRFP) can review them. Finally, on 11/12, @ 6:00 PM the County Board will adopt it. So far, there is one amendment to allocate some resources to help alleviate the growing backlog in tax delinquent properties. Last year, I helped craft a housing resolution which prioritized the return of tax delinquent properties to the tax rolls. Currently, the HRFP committee has been examining the Counter Book which lists the tax delinquent properties in the county. We have over 4,500 certificates dating back to 2010. If it passes, we will be able to set up a process to get that backlog under control. You can view either of the October HRFP meetings on YouTube, as well as the 10/17 County Board meeting to hear about those discussions. Please reach out to me if you have suggestions or questions!

**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) 715-261-7998

**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

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