



# works for you!

## Mayor's Message - Robert B. Mielke

**Happy New Year!** As we enter into 2017, I'm proud to see the accomplishments we've made as a community both in economic growth and quality of life. We see continued economic strength in our core sectors of insurance, information technology, healthcare, building materials, transportation/warehousing and manufacturing. In this issue, you'll find the results of the city's Comprehensive Plan Survey along with a large listing of employers who have partnered with the city's new economic development homesteading program, "Live it up, Wausau".



I recently proclaimed 2017 as the "Year of Local Talent in Music and Art". Wausau is blessed with the world renowned Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, the Grand Theater, The Center for Visual Arts, Wausau Events and a rich variety of musical and art organizations. I want to really encourage our younger residents to showcase your talent and enhance our cultural environment by becoming involved in all that Wausau offers. Catch the article inside regarding the rebranding of our young professionals groups and take part in the "WAUSAU SOUP" initiative that brings innovative ideas to the forefront.

An update on the status of the Thomas Street project: The Phase 1 part of the project is 90% complete. The final property appraisals have been completed and all acquisitions are anticipated to be fully completed by April, 2017. Demolition and moving of homes is ongoing and is expected to be completed by April, 2017 as well. Design plans are currently at 95% and the project will be advertised for bids in February, 2017, with construction beginning in early May, 2017. Construction is anticipated to be completed by early November, 2017. During the construction period, traffic will be detoured to Sherman Street. The actual detour route will be publicized prior to construction. It is anticipated that Thomas Street will be closed to thru traffic for the majority of the summer months, with some intersections remaining open to accommodate local traffic. Once the city has hired a contractor to complete the work, a more detailed schedule will be prepared and a public information meeting will be scheduled for residents. All overhead utility lines (WPS, Charter & Frontier) will be buried along Thomas Street. Utility companies are completing their designs and will begin their underground work as early as March, 2017. If there will be any disruption in service, the utility company will be contacting the owners directly to make any necessary arrangements.

There are many new and exciting projects that are "in the works" coming in 2017. Stay Tuned! In the meantime, enjoy the winter and yet know that spring is right around the corner! Always remember that I am always accessible and invite any resident to get in contact with me about any issues that you are concerned about.

Thank you, *Robert B. Mielke*

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**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.

## Mark Your Calendar – Winter Fest is January 28th!

Winter Fest will be held Saturday, January 28, from 10-3pm throughout Downtown Wausau. There are many activities planned on the 400 Block and at surrounding businesses including ice skating, a snow slide, horse drawn carriage rides, fat tire demo rides and more! There will also be places to warm up with activities planned inside at the Elk's Lodge, a Mac N Cheese tasting among participating businesses at the Great Hall (\$5 per punch card), live owls at the City Square Office Building, crafts and more! This event is a great way to escape the winter blues. All activities are free except for the Mac N Cheese samplings. For a complete listing of activities for Winter Fest, visit [www.wausauevents.org](http://www.wausauevents.org)

## Clerk's Office



### Pet Licenses Expire December 31 of each Year

Pet licenses are required for all dogs and cats more than four months of age on January 1 of any year, or four months of age within the license year, regardless of whether or not your pet goes outside.

Proof of rabies vaccination, expiration date and proof of spayed or neutered is required at the time of licensing. There is an \$8.00 discount on each license if your pet is microchipped, proof is required.

The license can be obtained in a variety of ways:

- In person at the Customer Service Counter, please bring the necessary proof of spayed or neutering, microchipping and rabies vaccination.
- Or mail a payment along with required documents to City Hall 407 Grant Street, Wausau, WI 54403
- You can also pay and upload the required documents online and process the application electronically at <https://evolveportal.ci.wausau.wi.us/>.

Licensing fees for 2017 licensing year are: an unaltered dog or cat is \$60.00 per year; an altered dog or cat is \$18.00 per year. All pets are given an \$8.00 discount if they are microchipped. Proof of microchipping is required for discount.

To prevent a late fee, all dog and cat licenses are due no later than March 31st of every year. **A late fee of double the regular license fee, in addition to the required license fee is imposed if the license is obtained after March 31st.** The forfeiture for NOT having a current pet license is \$187.00.

Thank you for being a responsible pet owner.

## Recreational Burn Permits

With spring just around the corner, this is a reminder to check the expiration date of your Recreational Burn Permit if you have a fire pit within the city. Burn permits are issued for a term of five years and expire on March 31 of the fifth year. Permits are required in the City of Wausau for any recreational fires including a below-ground pit or a portable device intended to contain and control outdoor wood fires.

Please visit City Hall to pick up a recreational burn permit or go to City of Wausau's website and download an application at <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us>. If the property is a rental unit, the application must be completed and signed by the property owner/landlord. You may contact the clerk's office if you have specific questions at 715.261.6620.



## Attention Voters!

Election Day is Tuesday April 4, 2017. All polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Where to vote:

#### Districts 1 & 2

Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
709 Weston Avenue

#### Districts 4 & 5

Boys & Girls Club of Wausau  
1710 N. 2nd Street

#### Districts 6

Wausau East High School  
2607 N. 18th Street

#### Districts 7 & 8

Wausau West High School  
1200 W. Wausau Avenue

#### Districts 9 & 11

Wausau National Guard Armory  
833 S 17th Avenue

#### Districts 3 & 10

Marathon Park East Gate Building  
600 Block of Garfield Avenue

Absentee ballots are available for anyone that is unwilling or unable to vote at their poll site on Election Day. Applications for absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or download an application at the following website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Services/Elections/Resources.aspx>.

If you are not already registered to vote, or if you have moved or had a name change, save time by registering to vote prior to Election Day. Registering before Election Day will speed up the process for you. You may register at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or download a registration application at the following website: <http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Services/Elections/Resources.aspx>.

If you are unsure of where you vote or if your registration is current, you can visit MyVote Wisconsin website to verify or look up this information: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo>.

If you have questions regarding elections, absentee ballots or anything else not addressed here, please contact the City Clerk's office at 715-261-6620.

# 2017 Recycling Collection Calendar

Refer to the table and the 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 bins 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. **Keep this schedule for future reference and remember the holiday schedule of a "day delay" pick-up.**

<b>West Side of Wisconsin River:</b>			
North of W. Wausau Ave		Monday	Blue
North of Elm St., South of W. Wausau Ave. & East of USH 51		Monday	Yellow
South of Elm St. & North of Stewart Ave. including entire area West of USH 51		Tuesday	Blue
South of Stewart Ave. & North of Thomas St.		Tuesday	Yellow
South of Thomas St.		Wednesday	Blue

<b>East Side of Wisconsin River:</b>			
North of Marquardt Rd. & East of railroad tracks		Wednesday	Blue
North of Nina Ave. & South of Marquardt Rd. including homes West of the railroad tracks to Evergreen Rd.		Wednesday	Yellow
South of Nina Ave. & North of Hamilton St.		Thursday	Blue
South of Hamilton St. & North of Kickbusch St.		Thursday	Yellow
South of Kickbusch St., North of McDonald St. & East of Northwestern Rd.		Friday	Blue
South of McDonald St. & entire area West of Northwestern Rd.		Friday	Yellow

## 2017 Recycling Calendar

JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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## Economic/Community Development Planning Department News

### 2017 – Year of Riverlife

The Riverlife redevelopment of the East Riverfront Redevelopment Area hit another milestone just recently along our urban waterfront including:

- Completion of the missing link of the River's Edge Trail
- River shoreline restoration including stone terraces, seating plazas and overlooks
- Opening of the first business, Wausau On The Water family entertainment facility

2017 will see more excitement as the Riverlife Park is transformed into the region's preeminent public playground, complete with new amenities including an extensive ropes course, running tracks, an outdoor climbing wall and bouldering area, a modern playground and outdoor fitness equipment.

And this spring, construction is planned to start on the long-awaited Riverlife Village. Phase 1 of this massive private investment should be under construction throughout most of 2017 and includes over \$20mil in new taxable construction value including a 52 unit high end apartment building, a mixed use commercial office/retail building and 6 townhomes.

There is a "Live Cam" of the East Riverfront Area on our website [www.wausaudevelopment.com](http://www.wausaudevelopment.com) under tab Riverfront- check out the progress! Even better, the River's Edge Trail will be open and maintained all winter. Be sure to stop down and check out YOUR new waterfront!



The Mayor and Council, along with partners and stakeholders tour the new public wharf now completed along the Wisconsin River.

## Development Matters

As we start a new year, it's great to reflect on 2016 and many of the accolades and development accomplishments of the City and our local businesses.

In 2016, the Wausau region led the State in wage and job growth, and Area Development- a respected publication for site selection- ranked the Wausau region #41 out of the 394 metro areas nationally, #8 among smaller metro areas, and #1 in Wisconsin. The Kaufmann Foundation which tracks startup growth, noted that Wausau is #2 in Wisconsin for startup jobs and Smart Asset Magazine ranked the Wausau region the #23 Best Place to Work in Manufacturing nationwide. Perhaps our biggest shout out in 2016, was research by the famed Pew Research Trust that showed the Wausau region had the highest percentage of middle class incomes nationwide. Time Magazine referred to our region as 'middle class paradise'.

Our region is strong and the City of Wausau leads the region with many of our manufacturers, both large and small, recently expanding. The City has used Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to directly support manufacturing job growth. To date over 700 local manufacturing jobs are directly tied

to the City's incentives. In the past year we saw major expansions which involved the City's incentives at Linetec, JARP Products, Wausau Window and Wall, Composite Envisions, and Wausau Coated. All of our current manufacturers using TIF loans have met or exceeded their job creation commitments.



Want Income Equality? Move to Wausau, Wisconsin  
The middle class is shrinking across America. But some places are more equal than others.  
TIME.COM

The City has also used our Commercial Rehabilitation, Small Business, and Micro Loan Funds to support a variety of small businesses throughout the City. Over the past 10+ years the City has made over \$3mil in loans to diverse businesses who have led expansions, renovated properties and created jobs in our City including: Red Eye Brewing, Dietary Pros, Kocourek Chevrolet, Diamond Showcase, Loppnow's, The Chatterbox,

Bull Falls Brewery, Campbell Haines Menswear, Sheppard and Schaller, The Glass Hat, Lil' Ole Winemaker, Compass Properties, Runkel Abstract, Thrive Foodery, Prosthetic Orthotic Center, Zillman's Meat Market, Voss Photography, Back When Café, Thunder Lube, Wausau World Market, RMM Solutions, and Downtown Grocery- just to name a few great businesses.

The City's Entrepreneurial and Education Center (EEC), located in the Wausau Business Campus, has assisted at least 144 entrepreneurs through startup bootcamps since its creation. In 2015 alone the EEC assisted 18 startup businesses who are now established in the region, over the years some famous local businesses which started in the incubator include Resilient Technology, Sweet Lola's Cupcakes, Advantage Insurance, Integra Tool, Condition One, Five Koshas Yoga Studio, Patina's Coffee, Kim's B.S. Sauce, Fat Man's BBQ Sauce, Fat Joe's Pizza, and Floorology.

We're proud of the City of Wausau's support of local businesses- both big and small- and our support for local entrepreneurs, who create jobs and tax base everyday. To learn more about the City's programs and support for businesses visit: [www.wausaudevelopment.com](http://www.wausaudevelopment.com)

## Wausau Comprehensive Plan Survey Results

As part of the update to the City of Wausau's Comprehensive plan, a community survey was conducted online from April through June 2016. During this three month window, 400 people completed the survey. For a population of the size of Wausau, this sample size has a confidence interval of 95% with a 5% margin of error. Although not a scientific survey, this sample size gives a good representative example of the thoughts and attitudes of Wausau's population.

When asked about their choice to live in Wausau, 48% of total respondents said that they were raised here or have family here. About 37% lived here because they have a good job or a spouse with a good job. The City's amenities were an attraction for 6% of survey respondents, while 9% of respondents felt stuck here.

The survey asked respondents about different topics regarding life in Wausau such as overall impressions, parks and recreation, transportation, housing, economic development, and downtown Wausau. Respondents' views on these topics will be included in the relevant chapters of this plan. Some of the overall impressions are included below and on page 6.

More than 67% of respondents rate the quality of life in the City of Wausau positively. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of 16 issues which they felt were the most important that Wausau would face in the next five years. The top three responses were "Maintain a good school system", "Developing the riverfront", and "Retention and expansion of local employers".

Respondents were also asked to describe, in one phrase, the best thing about Wausau and also one thing they would change to improve Wausau. Generally, the things people felt were the best about Wausau were the fact that it's a community with a small

*Cont. on page 6*

## Live It Up Wausau



In 2016 the City started an innovative economic development homesteading program called Live It Up Wausau [www.liveitupwausau.com](http://www.liveitupwausau.com) and closed 11 no interest down-payment assistance loans to employees of partner businesses to buy homes in the City of Wausau. Live It Up is based on the simple theory that employees who are rooted in local neighborhoods are more inclined to stay and be better vested in their jobs and communities.

The City is pleased to note the following 22 employer partners so far who have made nonprofit donations to support the Live It Up program (in order of contribution):

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| River Valley Bank            | Southern Stretch Forming        |
| Emmerich & Associates        | Dental Crafters                 |
| First Weber Realtors         | Ellison & David Law             |
| Wausau Window & Wall Systems | Steve 3 Auto Body & Custom      |
| Collaborative Consulting     | Finishing Touch                 |
| Ruder Ware                   | King Company                    |
| Linetec                      | Gloss Nail Bar                  |
| Major Industries             | Wausau Bible Church             |
| Benedictine Health System    | Tammera Schumann, LMT           |
| The Glass Hat                | Azura Memory Care               |
| JARP Industries              | Valley Communities Credit Union |

### How it Works

Live It Up leverages the businesses support with City resources to provide down-payment assistance funds for local employees to buy a home in the City. Live It Up is a community partnership working towards a more locally connected and rooted workforce. Live It Up combines the goal of making homeownership more affordable and accessible with the goal of engaging local employees in our neighborhoods.

### What it Means

Our employees are one of our greatest economic development assets and Live It Up complements other efforts locally, to help our City, region and, your business, proactively support workforce attraction and retention. Last year, Live It Up Wausau, gained local and national attention as model for economic development efforts, and was showcased with a keynote session at the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) Annual Conference.

More information on Live It Up may be found at [www.liveitupwausau.com](http://www.liveitupwausau.com). Nonprofit and tax deductible donations to support these loans for local employees can be made to the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin online at: [www.cfoncw.org](http://www.cfoncw.org) or by mail to: CFONCW attn: Live It Up Fund, 500 1st Street, Suite 2600, Wausau, WI 54403.



Mayor Mielke and Members of the City Council at the first Live It Up Wausau loan closing which helped a registered nurse purchase and renovate a historic home (circa 1907) in the City's near north neighborhood.



## Wausau Comprehensive Plan Survey Results *(cont. from page 5)*

town feel, but with big city amenities; the 400 Block and many excellent events held in town; the parks and myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation; and that Wausau is a safe community and a good place to raise a family.

The most common responses about what respondents would change were the interconnected problems of drugs, crime, and mental health impacting the community; the need to improve safety for bicyclists and add more trails; the Wausau Center Mall; and an aging road infrastructure which is in need of maintenance.

### Housing

The Wausau Comprehensive Plan Survey included a section asking respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about housing in Wausau. Four statements respondents agreed with are: "A wide range of housing choices are available within the City"; "Wausau needs more single-family housing"; "Wausau needs more senior housing"; and "I feel safe walking in my neighborhood".

The visual appeal of a community is largely affected by its housing stock. When asked about Wausau, respondents largely agreed that the appearance of Wausau is both attractive and well maintained.

### Transportation

Respondents overwhelmingly supported the use of public funds to construct or maintain sidewalks and bike paths, to maintain the Metro Ride Wausau area bus service, and to expand river access and riverfront trails.

When asked to rate some of the elements of the local transportation system, respondents had mixed opinions. Snow removal services and local parks and trails received very positive responses. Respondents were not as positive about road conditions, bicycle lanes and paths, and bicycle and pedestrian safety, often giving a balance of good and fair/poor grades.

### Utilities and Community Facilities

The survey asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with many of the utilities and community services in

Wausau. Regarding the cost of living, safety, healthcare infrastructure, parks and recreation, and schools in Wausau, at least 60 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied.

Regarding fire service and emergency medical service, over 80 percent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied.

The survey also asked four questions about parks and recreational opportunities in the City. Over 40 percent of respondents disagree with the statement that "Wausau has insufficient park space and that more parks should be developed". Only 2.3 percent of respondents said they never visit parks or playgrounds in the City.

In addition, the outdoor recreation amenities in the City and surrounding area were often mentioned as one of the best things about Wausau. The 400 Block Park in particular was also one of the best things about Wausau. Survey respondents clearly view the parks as a major asset to the community and local quality of life.

### Economic Development

A survey question asked respondents to choose what they think is the most important issue facing economic development in Wausau. The top 3 responses were: Taxes and/or rents too high (34.1% of responses); Vibrant, active downtown (20.8%); and (3) Be a business friendly community (14.9%).

People were also asked to choose the top places they believe will need the most assistance from the City by 2021 to be economically strong. The areas respondents feel will need the most assistance are the Downtown (42.9%), the Riverfront (37.2%), and Grand Avenue (33.6%).

Finally, respondents were asked in what area of economic development the City should prioritize the use of incentives. Job creation was highest with 39.6% of responses, followed by infrastructure development (35.8%), and job retention (24.6%).

### Downtown

The Wausau Comprehensive Plan Survey included two questions about Downtown Wausau. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of options which will provide the greatest opportunity for the future of a vibrant downtown. Results were

very evenly spread across the list with entertainment receiving 20% of responses, followed by local retailers (19.4%), and national retailers (18.9%).

Respondents were also asked to choose from a list of options which will provide the greatest challenge for the future of a vibrant downtown, and the results were more decisive. Challenges due to the Wausau Center Mall received almost half of all votes (49.2%), followed by a lack of new local businesses and entrepreneurs (23.9%), and underutilization of downtown properties (12.2%).

Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with downtown Wausau. Over 70% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with downtown. Over 55% remarked they were satisfied or very satisfied with efforts made to revitalize downtown.

When asked about the most important issues facing Wausau in the next five years, developing downtown Wausau was one of the most common responses. It was also one of the most frequent responses to what is the best thing about Wausau.

### Cultural Resources

The survey asked respondents how strongly they agree or disagree with statements about five cultural resource topics. Respondents are in favor of preserving and expanding cultural amenities and resources in the community. Over 83% of respondents agree or strongly agree that the City should support the preservation of historic buildings. Over 70% agree or strongly agree that more events and festivals should take place in the City. Almost 60% enjoy having the Wisconsin Valley Fair in Wausau each year, and almost 50% believe that Wausau should have more public art.

Cultural resources are a key factor in providing residents with a high quality of life in the community. When asked to rate the overall quality of life in Wausau, 12% said excellent, 56% good, 27% average, and only 5% poor. The 400 Block and various events that take place in the City were some of the most common remarks about the best things in Wausau.

For more information on the survey and the City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan, visit the website: [www.ci.wausau.wi.us/planning](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/planning)

## Winter Recreation Programs 2017

[www.ci.wausau.wi.us/parks.asp](http://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/parks.asp)

### Sylvan Hill Snow Tubing

**Open thru March 05** (weather permitting) Open. Weekend hrs Fri. 6-9:30 PM, Sat. 1:30-5 or 6-9:30 PM, Sun 1:30-5 PM. Must be 42 inches tall to ride. One rider per tube. Fee: \$6.50-13 & under (min. 42 inches tall); \$9.00 14 & older. Hill available to rent for private parties. Call 715 261-1550 for details.

### Sylvan Candlelight Snowshoe Hike

*Co-Sponsored W/ Big Brother Big Sisters.* **Friday, Feb 24 from 5-7 PM.** Enter and pay through Chalet, receive a wristband and directions to start of trail. \$5 per person, max of \$15 per family. Includes hot beverage after your hike. Limited number of snowshoes available for use. Bring a non-perishable food item for donation and receive a BIG cookie. Call 715 261-1550 for details.

### Adult Evening Water Exercise

**Feb 13 - Mar 22 6:30 -7:30 PM,** John Muir Pool Mon /Wed nights. Fee: \$41 Wausau residents, \$52 non-res. Space limited, pre-registration required. No children or drop-ins allowed.

### Sledding Hills in Wausau

Open when snow cover permits. Hours: sunrise to 11 PM Fee: FREE! Locations: Pleasant View-1221 Sumner St (lights) "3M" Park-405 Park Blvd (lights) Riverside Park-100 Sherman St Schofield Park-606 E Randolph St (closed due to pool construction)

### Indoor Ice skating (w/skate rentals)

Dates: Through - Mar 5, Mon-Fri 11AM - 1 PM. Through Feb 07, Wed. 7-9 PM, Sun. 2-5 PM. Hours subject to change due to special events and/or scheduling conflicts. Call 261-1550 for rates & to confirm weekly hours.

### Outdoor Ice Skating

The outdoor ice skating season begins as soon as conditions allow them to be built and runs **through Feb 19, 2017.** Rinks will be built on the 400 Block, at the southeast side of the Grandstand in Marathon Park, and at Riverview Elementary School. Warming houses can be found at 400 Block and Marathon Park. Hockey boards can be found at Marathon Park. Skating hours for all rinks are Mon-Fri 5 to 8 PM, Sat. 10 Am to 8 PM and Sun. 10 Am to 6 PM.

### Cross-Country Skiing/ Snowshoeing

Open when snow conditions permit. 9-Mile County Forest Recreation Area w/groomed & signed trails, ski & snowshoe rentals, a chalet & 3.7 miles of trail with lights for night skiing. Season or daily pass required, Call for rates, hours and conditions 261-1550. Sylvan Hill w/groomed trails. Park Shelter w/restrooms & snack bar available when tubing hill is open. Donation requested.

### Wausau Outdoor Pools Early Bird Pass Sale

Purchase your Wausau Outdoor Pool Pass from now through April 15, 2017 and save 10% over the cost of your family, adult or youth pool pass. All neighborhood water parks will open on or about June 9, 2017 at 1 PM (Starting date may be affected by Wausau School Snow Days and the final school day for Wausau students).

### Winter Special Events Happening in the Parks

**Midwest Freeze Outdoor 4 X 4 Pond Hockey**  
<http://classicpondhockey.com/>

**Wausau Nordic Ski Club Calendar**  
<http://www.wausaunordic.com/calendar.htm>

**Wausau Events Winter Fest**  
<http://www.wausauevents.org/events/winter-fest/>

## Solar for the city?

Five city properties have been evaluated for their potential as places where photovoltaic panels could be installed to make electricity from sunlight. Two are the best for roof-mounted panels, but it will be early summer at best before enough is known to take a more serious look at even the first one.

Preliminary exploration of the idea of using solar panels to provide some of the electricity for city buildings is happening with the encouragement of the Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee. Most of the push, though, is coming from Mayor Robert Mielke and Dist. 1 Alderman Pat Peckham. They have assured the committee that they will only bring forward a proposal if it can provide electricity at a total cost per kilowatt-hour that will be less than the city's rates through the regional electric utility, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS).

Peckham and Mielke went to the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's energy fair June 18 to meet with representatives of North Wind Renewable Energy of Stevens Point and Legacy Solar Co-op of Madison. They have since been in contact with All Energy Solar of St. Paul. The focus of a Dec. 20 meeting with the Wisconsin companies was on rooftop panels. A telephone conference in January with All Energy Solar will primarily be about how that company built a public works vehicle shelter in Red Wing, Minn., that has a roof covered with photovoltaic panels that have gotten cheaper and more efficient.

It has been slow going. It took seven months to receive building-specific, hour-by-hour electricity consumption data from WPS to help to guide the ranking of which facility would be best for solar. A representative of North Wind toured five city properties; City Hall, the Public Safety Building, Public Works, the wastewater treatment plant and the drinking water treatment plant.

The most promising facility is the drinking water plant, but the city is waiting until after a previously scheduled engineering study of the roof is done. If roof work is needed and plans for solar are in place, panels could be installed in a better manner. Second best for solar is the public works building, but that structure might be due for roof work beforehand, too.

Peckham says that because the city can't qualify for tax incentives for solar like private citizens can, grants or private investment might be needed.





## Fire Department News



### Community Paramedic Corner

**Tips for Slips.** Along with winter comes an increase in injuries due to slips, trips, and falls. Follow these tips in those icy and snowy conditions:

1. Dress appropriately when you are outside.
2. Pay attention to where you are stepping and take your time.
3. Stay on shoveled and cleared paths and walk around surfaces that look slippery.
4. Wear footwear that has good traction.
5. Use handrails when available.
6. Pay close attention to entrances, halls, and stairs with tracked in snow. These surfaces can get pretty slippery when wet.
7. Clean your shoes off when inside.
8. Keep the shovel, salt, or sand by the door for those snowy and/or icy mornings.

If you do slip and begin to fall forward try to roll with the fall. If you slip and begin to fall backward it is recommended you try to sit down. Falling on ice can cause twisting or bending injuries but if a person can relax injuries can be less severe.

The Wausau Fire Department hopes you keep these tips in mind so that you are less likely to slip, trip, or fall.

## Clearing Snow from Fire Hydrants



Wintry weather can delay emergency response if ice or snow conceal, obstruct or make access to hydrants difficult. You can help reduce this threat by keeping nearby fire hydrants accessible and clear of ice and snow. In the City of Wausau there are 1,648 hydrants which doesn't include the private hydrants located near or around businesses.

In an emergency, every second matters. Fire hydrants which are not cleared in the winter can hamper emergency fire response. Wausau fire engines carry 1,000 gallons of water on its three front line fire engines. Each fire engine has the capacity to pump at 1,500 gallon per minute; that 1,000 gallons gets used up incredibly fast. The second arriving engine is responsible to supply the attacking fire engine with a water supply from the nearest hydrant. The "catching the hydrant" assignment or attaching the 5 inch hose and couplings to the hydrant is the responsibility of one individual. If they need to find and uncover the hydrant before establishing

a connection this can be very time consuming which can delay water delivery to the attacking engine.

In addition to removing snow and debris covering the hydrant, it is also beneficial to clear the area around the hydrant and maintain a shoveled pathway to the street for swift access.

The Wausau Fire Department is very thankful to those who take the time to keep hydrants clear in the city of Wausau. It is generally considered the responsibility of the residents occupying the property near the hydrant to keep them clear; however, if there is a resident that is unable to accomplish this type of task it is wonderful if neighbors and friends are able to help out.

Help keep your home safe during the winter season by keeping your near-by hydrants visible and accessible. The Wausau Fire Department thanks you.



Submitted by Wausau Firefighter/Paramedic Quinn Ambrosius

Leigh Yawkey  
**Woodson**  
Art Museum

## 2017 Exhibition Schedule

**On view through February 26, 2017**  
**Tiffany Glass:**

**Painting with Color and Light**  
Tiffany Studios' leaded-glass lampshades and windows, designed with colorfully luminous opalescent glass, shine as some of the twentieth century's most striking, iconic decorative objects.

**March 4 - May 28, 2017**

**M.C. Escher: Reality and Illusion**

The most iconic works by Dutch artist M.C. Escher (1898-1972), including a pair of hands drawing themselves and fish morphing into birds, are familiar to many. This exhibition of 120 woodcuts, lithographs, mezzotints, and drawings delves deeper into both the literal and impossible worlds Escher created over a career spanning five decades. Drawn from a large private collection of M.C. Escher's work, Reality and Illusion includes early figure drawings, lesser-known book illustrations, detailed Italian landscapes, the tessellations for which he became famous, and examples of his signature architectural fantasies in which stairways seem to go both up and down. From the collection of Herakleidon Museum, Athens, Greece

**June 3 - August 27, 2017**

**Nature, Tradition, & Innovation: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics**

Innovative and bold sculptural forms by more than forty contemporary Japanese ceramists, inspired by the natural world, depict mountains, waterfalls, ocean shores, and bamboo groves.

**Woodson Art Museum**

**Hours:** Tues-Fri. . . . . 9am-4pm  
First Thurs. . . . . 9am-7:30pm  
Thursdays during  
Birds in Art. . . . . 9am-7:30pm  
Sat-Sun. . . . . Noon-5pm  
Closed Monday & holidays,  
including New Year's Day,  
Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving,  
Christmas Eve, & Christmas

**Admission:** Always Free Admission

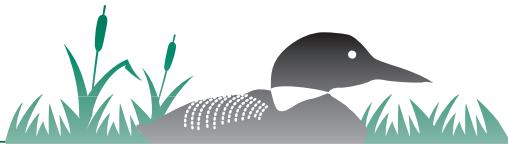
**Phone:** 715.845.7010

**E-mail:** museum@lywam.org

**Location:** Franklin and 12th Streets  
Wausau, WI 54403-5007  
700 North Twelfth Street

**Online:** www.lywam.org





## Wausau Water Works News

### Baby, It's Cold Outside!

Winters can be challenging due to cold temperatures and deep frost levels. So far, the winter of 2016-17 has been pretty pleasant, but we all know that in Wisconsin, that can change quickly. There are a number of tips to help avoid problems with frozen or broken pipes in your home.

- Keep all doors and windows to your basement closed and keep the basement heated to a minimum of 50 degrees.
- Homeowners with finished basements are encouraged to allow air to circulate around the water meter; this is especially true if the meter is encased behind a wall.
- Leave cabinet doors open under sinks that are located on exterior walls.
- Vacant properties – make sure to have someone check the property on a regular basis to make sure the furnace doesn't go out. This is especially important as temps start to drop or during extended periods of cold weather. Better yet, contact Wausau Water Works to turn off the water service at the street and remove the water meter; the property can then be winterized. There is a fee to turn the service back on, but it is minimal compared to the damage one broken pipe can cause.
- Never thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame. Thawing should only be done using a hair dryer or heat tape. Before starting to thaw make sure you know where the main water shut off valve is located in your home and that it works. If you were to discover a crack in the pipe you will want to be able to immediately shut off the water supply.
- Use of space heaters in the living spaces of homes may help keep you feeling more comfortable, but it may also limit the amount that your furnace runs, which could cause basement temperatures to drop and cause pipe or water meter freezing or breakage.

### Give Us A Hand

It is that time of year again. Cold winter temperatures bring water main breaks! We are asking for your help in spotting water main breaks. If you see any running water any time of day, please call Wausau Water Works, at 715-621-6530 to let us know. Reporting main breaks when you see them helps us keep repair costs down and limit property damage.

### Cross Connection Inspections

The goal of Wausau Water is to deliver safe, high-quality drinking water every day. To continue to protect the public health and keep the water system safe from contaminants and pollutants we are required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services, and the Wausau Municipal Code to maintain a cross connection control program.

Wausau Water Works has renewed its contract with HydroCorp of New Berlin, Wisconsin to assist in managing our program. HydroCorp is a consulting firm that specializes in backflow prevention education and cross connection control programs and inspections. HydroCorp does not sell plumbing devices, installations or perform backflow preventer testing. Each HydroCorp Inspector carries an easy to see Photo Identification Tag Issued by Wisconsin Rural Water Association. All employees undergo a third party background check.

HydroCorp will perform the surveys of commercial and industrial buildings throughout the community to detect actual & potential cross connections and make recommendations for the installation of backflow prevention devices or assemblies where necessary. This will help ensure that contaminated or polluted water cannot backflow into clean drinking water.

A survey is a walk-through of the water-system piping in a building or property, starting at the water meter and ending at the last free-flowing tap. At the end of the survey HydroCorp will produce a report describing any violations or discrepancies found, as well as a time frame for compliance.

Inspection notices will be mailed to water customers approximately two weeks before the scheduled inspection date. A representative should be available during the inspection to answer questions and provide access.

Cross connection control program questions can be directed to Wausau Water Works at 715-261-7265 or water customers may call HydroCorp directly at 800-315-4305

### Bull Falls Tappers Take 1st Place at State Competition

Wausau's Bull Falls Tappers finished the tapping competition at the Wisconsin Water Association Annual Conference in 1st place. Each team completes two taps in an exciting contest which pits skills and muscles against the clock. The object of the competition is to tap a section of pressurized water main, attach a copper water service line and then turn on the service to see if there are any leaks. Judges critique the work, penalizing for any infractions. Wausau took the competition with a time of 1 min 48 seconds. Winners of the competition go on to compete internationally at the American Water Works Association Annual Conference in June. The competition helps the teams hone their tapping skills, while also providing networking opportunities with peers from around the State. Members of the 2016 team included Captain Brandon Ball, Copper Man Rick Dorn, Cranker Floyd Smith Jr. and Star Man Ryan Fischer.



### Congratulations!

Congratulations are extended to the following employees who have recently received certifications or finished certificate programs. Kevin Behnke received his WDNR Water Operator Certifications for Groundwater, Distribution and VOC removal, Raymond Younger received his Distribution Certification, and Cheryl Sell received her VOC Removal certification this past fall.

Floyd Smith and Rick Dorn received their Cross Connection Control Assembly Tester Certification from the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. Shannon Lane recently completed his Certificate in Supervision course offered by the Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company. Great job everyone!!

Wausau Water Works encourages professional development for its' employees to ensure that we have well trained and educated employees working for our organization which in turn helps us provide the best service to our customers.

## Police Department News

### Wausau Police Department's Community Resource Unit

As the needs of the community have evolved, so have the policing practices of the Wausau Police Department. Throughout the years, the department has worked to address several quality of life issues in the city, including nuisance properties, suspected drug activity, reports of prostitution, etc. Approximately four years ago the Wausau Police Department formed the Community Resource Unit (CRU) to address these changing needs.

The CRU is currently comprised of four officers who are supervised by a lieutenant. Because they are not assigned to a patrol sector responding to time-sensitive service calls, the Community Resource Officers (CROs) are able to take the appropriate time to lead investigations into neighborhood problems. This may include conducting undercover drug investigations, locating and apprehending fugitives and educating neighborhood groups.

The CRU has seen much success through partnering with the community to effect positive change in our neighborhoods. In the past four years the CRU has produced the following results:

• Arrests	694	• Heroin seized	4 oz.
• Search Warrants	136	• Cocaine seized	4 oz.
• Marijuana seized	23 lbs.	• Drug paraphernalia seized	1,316 items
• Methamphetamine seized	2.5 lbs.	• Guns seized	32

The Wausau Police Department is proud of the CRU's efforts to positively impact the quality of life for Wausau's citizens.



### Wausau Police Department Partners With School District

The Wausau Police Department is pleased to partner with and assist the Wausau School District in providing a safe and welcoming learning environment in which to achieve the District's educational goals. There are four Wausau Police Officers assigned as School Resource Officers, with full-time placement at the high schools and middle schools during the school year.

The SROs employ a community policing philosophy within their school communities, seeking to build trust and relationships with students and staff, to partner with them to enhance the quality of life and scholastic growth in the schools. They serve as part of the school administrative team within their respective buildings, and take ownership in the safety and success of their school community. The SRO role is challenging, as in addition to law enforcement duties, the SRO also serves as an educator, an informal counselor, safety and security consultant, and legal resource person for students and school staff. Parents attending athletic events and other school functions will often see SROs engaged there also.

The Wausau Police Department and the District continue to share the cost of this service. We are proud to have an SRO team with a combined 48 years of law enforcement experience and dedicated service to the City of Wausau:

- Wausau West High School - SRO Jeff Schremp
- Wausau East High School - SRO Nicholas Stetzer
- Horace Mann Middle School - SRO Anthony Reince
- John Muir Middle School - SRO Kevin Cornell

In the winter/spring semester, our Middle School SROs also visit the elementary schools and teach the HOPE curriculum to 5th graders. The program focuses on the importance of making positive choices, internet safety, and addresses the dangers of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

Parents seeking current information and strategies for keeping their children safe in the evolving digital world are encouraged to check out the following online resource: <http://www.netsmartz.org>

We update our Facebook page frequently with department news, community happenings, press releases and videos. Come meet the people of Wausau P.D. at <https://www.facebook.com/WausauPoliceDepartment>. You can also follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WausauPD>

- Submitted by Lt. Nathan Cihlar

### 2ND ANNUAL WAUSAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

## AWARDS BANQUET MARCH 1

***Help Us Honor the Officers that Provide Service to Our Community***

The Wausau community is a great community, it is a very giving, accepting, understanding and compassionate community. The Wausau Police Department mirrors those same values. Every day, officers are going above and beyond the call of duty to help our community be a better place to live, work, and play. Officers perform heroic and selfless acts of service for the citizens of our community on a regular basis.

Help us honor and recognize officers who have had a positive and significant impact in our community. Officers who have dedicated their careers to providing service to the Wausau Community. "The Wausau Police Department strives for professional excellence and partners with our community to enhance the quality of life." This is our mission statement which guides our decisions and provides us purpose in our duties. Officers strive every day to provide security for our community and to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

Officers sacrifice family time, weekends, and Holidays to ensure we meet our mission. Officers are involved in deadly force situations and place themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens they serve. Officers train countless hours to prepare themselves for the vast array of situations that occur in our community. It is now time to formally acknowledge officers who have performed admirably under extreme circumstances.

We ask for your support as we plan for our 2nd Annual Wausau Police Department Awards Banquet. Please see the attached documents for further details on how you and your organization can help us honor officers who have given so much of themselves throughout the year.

**ALL SPONSORSHIPS WILL DIRECTLY OFFSET THE COST OF THE BANQUET**

**2ND ANNUAL WAUSAU POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS BANQUET**

# SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



Help honor and recognize officers who have a positive and significant impact in our community.

We ask for your support as we plan for our 2nd Annual Wausau Police Department Awards Banquet to honor officers who have given so much of themselves throughout the year. The Banquet will

be held on **MARCH 1** at the Jefferson Street Inn, Wausau.

**ALL SPONSORSHIPS WILL DIRECTLY OFF SET THE COST OF THE BANQUET**

## SPONSOR INFORMATION

**Mail sponsorship checks to:** Wausau Police Department, c/o Chief Jeff Hardel, 515 Grand Ave, Wausau, WI 54403 along with completed form.

**In lieu of sponsorship, you can give online:** [www.cfoncw.org](http://www.cfoncw.org), click the 'Give Now' tab and select fund 'Wausau Police Department Recognition Fund.'

Logos can be sent in .bmp or .jpeg format to Jeffrey.Hardel@ci.wausau.wi.us.

Please provide all sponsorship information by February 17, 2017.

**SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge to MasterCard/Visa #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as stated on card) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (as stated on card billing) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ \*CVC # \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### POLICE CHIEF LEVEL (BANQUET SPONSOR) \$5000

- Premier sponsor of event...billed as (company name) \_\_\_\_\_ Awards Banquet for Wausau Police Department
- Company team building retreat @ WPD including firearms exercise
- Company logo included on all awards material
- Company logo on awards banquet banner & program
- Company logo on all marketing materials including Facebook
- Annual report recognition
- The opportunity to address the audience at the start of the banquet
- All banquet pictures of award winners will have sponsor background
- Company recognition plaque

### DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF (BANQUET SPONSOR) \$2000

- Company logo included on all awards material
- Company logo on awards banquet banner & program
- Company logo on all marketing materials including Facebook
- Annual report recognition

### POLICE CAPTAIN LEVEL (BANQUET SPONSOR) \$1000

- Company logo included on all awards material
- Company logo on awards banquet banner & program
- Company logo on all marketing materials including Facebook
- Annual report recognition

### POLICE LIEUTENANT LEVEL (TABLE SPONSOR) \$500

- One table designated for your business with table placards
- Banquet banner & program
- Facebook advertisements
- Annual report

### POLICE SERGEANT LEVEL (FAMILY SPONSOR) \$250

- Sponsor an officer's family
- Facebook advertisements
- Banquet banner & program
- Annual report

### POLICE OFFICER LEVEL (OFFICER SPONSOR) \$50

- Sponsor an officer
- Facebook advertisements
- Banquet banner & program
- Annual report





## CITY OF WAUSAU

407 Grant Street  
Wausau, WI 54403

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 600  
Wausau, WI

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

## POSTAL PATRON

### Mayor

Robert B. Mielke  
715-261-6800  
315 S. 8th Avenue  
Robert.mielke@ci.wausau.wi.us



### City of Wausau Alderpersons

#### District 1

Patrick Peckham  
1618 Emerson Street  
715-845-1396  
Patrick.peckham@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 2

Romey Wagner  
3500 Golf View Drive  
715-848-5506  
Romey.wagner@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 3

David Nutting  
534 S. 1st Avenue  
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David.nutting@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 4

Tom Neal  
916 Hamilton Street  
715-573-6042  
tom.neal@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 5

Gary Gisselman  
319 Park Avenue  
715-848-5160  
Gary.gisselman@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 6

Becky McElhaney  
3839 Woodland Ridge Rd.  
715-581-3762  
Becky.mcelhaney@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 7

Lisa Rasmussen  
1310 Crescent Drive  
715-675-4872  
Lisa.rasmussen2@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 8

Karen Kellbach  
502 Knox Street  
715-675-2694  
Karen.kellbach@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 9

Joe Gehin  
3400 Springdale Avenue  
715-842-1028  
Joe.gehin@ci.wausau.wi.us



#### District 10

Sherry Abitz  
1201 S. 7th Avenue  
715-843-0990  
Sherry.abitz@co.marathon.wi.us



#### District 11

Dennis Smith  
3516 Polzer Drive  
715-573-7994  
Dennis.smith@ci.wausau.wi.us



## Young professionals group unveils new name

The Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce unveiled new branding for its young professionals group at a Jingle & Mingle event held on Friday, December 9. Formerly known as E3YP, hype is a workforce development initiative of the Chamber aimed at attracting, retaining and meeting the needs of young professionals (ages 21 to 45). hype will promote young professionals, highlighting their achievements, inspiring them to further connect with the community and developing them personally and professionally.

The group held a rebranding contest earlier this year and hype was selected by the group's steering committee as the winner from among dozens of entries. Traci Wisz of the Wisconsin Woodchucks submitted the winning name and has received a \$50 gift certificate from the Chamber.

The purpose of hype is to connect young professionals to each other, the community and businesses; to offer young professionals leadership opportunities and development tools to grow and to encourage young professionals to work, play and stay in the Wausau region. hype offers monthly events for its members, ranging from professional development and training programs to networking opportunities. hype activities serve to connect young professionals to the community and provide them with meaningful opportunities to interact with others in their age group, as well as with business and community leaders.

For more information on hype visit [WausauChamber.com](http://WausauChamber.com) or contact Renae Krings at [rkrings@wausauchamber.com](mailto:rkrings@wausauchamber.com) or 715-848-5942.



Andrew Shallow, right, of Associated Bank, Elizabeth Brodek Field, center, of Wausau River District and Traci Wisz, left, of the Wisconsin Woodchucks unveil the new branding for the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce's workforce development initiative for young professionals.

## Monk Botanical Gardens Welcomes A New Year

If you have not visited Monk Botanical Gardens, make a resolution to do so in the new year! Enjoy a Wisconsin winter evening with our luminary snowshoe walks, set for Friday, January 27 and Friday, February 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Guests can snowshoe or hike a luminary-lit path through the grounds and finish at the Kitchen Garden area for a bonfire, hot chocolate, and roasted marshmallows. There is no admission, although donations are encouraged and appreciated. For those who wish to explore the Gardens on their own, the gate at 1800 N. First Avenue is open each day, from dawn to dusk (please latch the gate behind you to prevent deer from entering).

Looking ahead to spring, mark your calendars for our non-competitive Annual Spring Egg Hunt, on Saturday, April 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Green Saturday Plant Sale and Garden Flea Market, on Saturday, May 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and check our website for registration information regarding bus trips for May, June, and July.

Monk Botanical Gardens has many events planned throughout the year, so please visit our website at [www.monkgardens.org](http://www.monkgardens.org), sign up for our newsletter, and follow us on Facebook for updates.