

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
April, 2025

Our next meeting is Monday, April 7, 2025

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)
- Briefing Sheet – Officer John Shear (with Q & A)
- Guest Speaker(s) – none scheduled

Dates to Remember

- April 1:* **April Fool's Day**
Spring Elections
- April 2:* Yard Waste Site opens; hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Friday-Sunday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- April 7:* **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- April 20:* **Happy Easter**
- April 22:* **Happy Earth Day**
- May 5:* **Cinco de Mayo**

Wausau Winter Market: 9:00 AM – Noon, John Marshall Elementary School, 1918 Lamont Street
Marathon County Historical Society Vintage Game Night – 1st Friday of each month, 5:30 PM
Public Art Studio – Sunday and Wednesday – 10:00 AM – 8:PM; Rise Up Hub, 130 1st Street, Suite 2 (below Whitewater Music Hall)
Fiber Arts Night – Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Rise Up Hub

Minutes from the March 3, 2025 Meeting

Ann discussed 2 topics with our group: the closing of the Catholic Charities unhoused facility and the Marathon County Health Department Life Report.

- Wausau and Marathon County established a joint task force on the unhoused. The agreement with Catholic Charities, in the Community Partners Campus, expires on May 1 and will result in about 50 people having no place to go. The County has allocated \$200,000 in their budget to address this problem; the City is also providing some ARPA funds to address this need.
- There there will be a link on the neighborhood Facebook page and included in the upcoming newsletter to the Marathon County Health Department Life Report survey. Ann requested everyone take the survey (https://marathonwi.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d5xy6WQzqpwx4). The survey, started in 1997, was last completed in 2023 and is a very comprehensive picture

of what Marathon County residents think County priorities should be. The survey is completely anonymous and will be available until May 31. The Life Report is used by a variety of organizations (including businesses, schools, hospitals, etc.) to determine which programs to establish/fund (including the Community Partner Campus, CART, testing private wells, etc.). The Health Officer at the Marathon County Health Department resigned today.

Michael had several items to share with the group.

- Part of the Rivers Edge Trail is being renamed. The portion of the trail from Thomas Street to the water treatment plant will be renamed to Peckham Way in honor of Pat Peckham.
- The Stewart Park amphitheater will be renamed in honor of Waltraud Karkar.
- There will be a large addition to The Landing for additional YMCA parking. Parking on 4th Street from McIndoe to Franklin Streets will be changed from parallel to angle parking.
- Michael reminded everyone about the lead service line replacement project. Our neighborhood is included in the targeted area. Wausau has the necessary funding for 2025; funding for 2026 is currently uncertain. Please contact CIP at infowausau@yourcip.com or at 715-793-7417.
- A member of the neighborhood asked what houses will be purchased for the new Fire Department facility. Michael shared that he currently doesn't have an answer to that question since construction probably will not begin for 3-5 years (a new fleet facility for the Department of Public Works has a higher priority than a new Fire Department building).

Officer Shear distributed a Briefing Sheet and highlighted the following items this month.

- He, along with 7 other Wausau Police Department members, attended the annual Active Threat Incident Response Conference in the Wisconsin Dells. It included presentations on various scenarios (active shooter, etc.) which were then shared with the rest of the Department.
- Officer Shear also discussed streets involved in the re-routing of Business Highway 51 and Wisconsin 52 in Wausau.

Our guest speakers this month were from the Wausau School District. Diana White (Coordinator of Communications and Marketing), Cale Bushman (Superintendent of Schools) and Jon Euting (Superintendent of Academics) spoke to us about the proposed operational referendum that will be on the April 1 ballot; the referendum would allow the School District revenue limit to be increased by \$8 million per year for the next 5 years. Additional information can be found on the District website. at: <https://www.wausauschools.org/referendum-2025>.

- The Wausau School district currently has about 7,800 students and is predicting a budget deficit for the 2025-26 school year.
- The School District representatives had several handouts for the group providing more information on upcoming meetings regarding the referendum (including community meetings), the reasoning behind the referendum and the potential property tax impact of the referendum.
- A task force made up of teachers, parents, and people with no children in the school system, was established to study possible options to solve the funding issue. The task force determined the District could save up to \$2 million per year in 3 years by consolidating elementary schools. Property taxes are not expected to increase due to shifting some of the early debt retirement funding to other uses.
- They explained what may happen if the referendum is not passed including staff reductions, salary freezes, deferred maintenance and reviewing programs that are offered to students.
- A resident asked about the cost of additional bus routes that will be needed because of the school building consolidations. They will be 3 more routes added; students living within 2 miles of their school will not be eligible to ride the school bus.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025

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

Hi everyone! Our next meeting will be on Monday April 7th. 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. See you at the meeting!

Michael Martens, Wausau District 2 Alderperson

You may not know it by the weather we've been having, but spring is here. Surprisingly, I've heard a couple people on our street starting some yard work. With that in mind, the City's yard waste site will open on Wednesday, April 2nd. For the 2025 season the site is open to receive materials on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Accepted materials are leaves, pine needles, grass, garden and flower debris, tree branches, and brush.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

Hello Longfellowers! As I mentioned at the last meeting, we have an important vacancy in our Health Department as our Health Officer, Laura Scudiere, resigned. This is a huge loss to our community and in my view, puts our county in a less stable place from a public health aspect. Right now, our administrator, Lance Leonhard is assisting in coordinating interim health officer activities and has named an interim Health Officer, Amanda Ostrowski, as our current Director of Community Health Improvement. Amanda has been with the department since 2007 and has extensive experience in community health assessment, program management, and communicable disease response, so you can rest assured that we have very dedicated staff who are still working to keep Marathon County healthy and safe while we transition to a permanent solution.

Let me give you a little background on our Health Department. We are a Level III Department which is the most comprehensive level. We focus on core public health services (disease surveillance, communicable disease control and basic health promotion) along with broader services like injury prevention, maternal and child health programs and even chronic disease prevention. Our department engages in community partnerships, policy development, and research to address more complex issues proactively. The Marathon County Health Department is seen as a leader by our peer counties in our environmental work—especially centered around water quality. One of the most visible services a Level III Department does is conduct inspections at restaurants, hotels, beaches, pools, and campgrounds. You likely see the results of the restaurant inspections in our local newspapers. There's a saying that captures our work well—"Public health saved your life today—you just didn't know it."

If you feel compelled, please advocate for public health at all levels of government by emailing your representatives (me included), calling, or attending listening sessions and sharing your story. It truly makes a difference. There is a Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee Listening Session scheduled for Tuesday April 29th from 10AM-5PM at NTC...not quite the jurisdiction of the Marathon County Health Department, but as you know, Public Health requires funding from all levels of government, so it is related. Additionally, you can advocate there for any issue you feel passionate about.

Thank you for your interest and engagement in your local government.

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@wausauwi.gov) 715-261-7998

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

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

INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT:

Includes uncut grass 715-261-6780

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

Includes unshoveled sidewalks 715-261-6740

STREET CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:

Missed by snow plows 715-261-6960

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE:

SHAHN KARIGER (shahn.kariger@wausauwi.gov) 715-261-7905

