

City of Wauwatosa

Newsletter

Volume 33, Issue 4

<http://www.wauwatosa.net>

Winter 2012

2012 Property Tax Statements

The 2012 property tax statements are expected to be mailed by the second full week in December. The bills are mailed to the owner of record per the Milwaukee County Registrar of Deeds, unless an official mailing address change has been made at the City Assessor's office prior to November 15, 2012. If you do not receive a tax bill by December 20, the tax bill can be obtained using the city website. Otherwise, for those taxpayers who do not have access to the internet, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 414-479-8960.

Preparing the Payment: Checks should be made payable to "City of Wauwatosa". Submit your tax bill with the payment. For those that receive an escrow check from their mortgage company to be used towards payment of property taxes, please make sure to endorse the check. Checks not properly endorsed will be returned to the taxpayer, as the check cannot be deposited.

Where and How to Pay:

By Mail: The preferred method of payment is to mail your tax payment in the green envelope provided with your tax bill. Mail the entire tax bill and your check made payable to "City of Wauwatosa". Don't forget to endorse the escrow check, if applicable. Payments are receipted using the U.S. Postal Service postmark as the receipt date.

24 Hour Night Depository: Payments can also be placed in the 24-hour depository located on the southwest end of city hall near the employee entrance. A deposit made prior to midnight will be receipted using that day's date.

In Person: Payments can be made in person by cash or check during posted business hours. Please bring the tax bill so that receipt information can be validated directly onto the bill.

2012-2013 Hours: The Treasurer's Office is open Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM. The office is closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Treasurer's Office will have special holiday hours on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec 31 from 9AM — Noon.

Due dates: Property tax payments are due January 31, 2013. For those who pay their real estate property taxes using the three-installment plan, the first installment must be paid in full no later than January 31, 2013. The second installment is due March 31, 2013 and the third, May 31, 2013. The amount of each installment is displayed on the tax bill. Failure to make the full installment payment by each due date will result in the bill becoming delinquent and the remaining balance being subject to interest and penalty charges. No reminder notice is sent for the installment due dates; please plan accordingly. All personal property tax (business non-real estate) will be due by January 31, 2013.

Tax Information via the City Website: From the main page of the city website, www.wauwatosa.net, click the "Property Taxes" button on the left side of the page. Follow the instructions to the City of Wauwatosa property tax web portal. The portal is searchable by parcel number or property address. Property tax payment information, receipts and copies of the original tax bill are all available electronically.

Receipts: There are three ways to obtain an official receipt of payment: (1) obtain a receipt via the City website by printing the Tax Detail document, (2) enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your mailed payment, or (3) having your tax bill validated with the receipt information upon payment at the Treasurer's Office counter.

NEW this year – Streamlined escrow payment processing: For those taxpayers whose mortgage company pays the City directly, a new product will enable them to check on the status of their escrow payments. The Treasurer's Office is working with a third party provider to streamline payment processing and provide taxpayers access to the status of their escrow payments. While not all escrow companies or banks utilize this vendor, many of the larger financial institutions do. More information on this new feature will be available on the City website.

ELECTED OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

FAX: 471-8989

TTY: 471-8484

Mayor Kathy Ehley Phone: 479-8915
 Richard Baker, Municipal Judge Phone: 471-8488

First District

Peter Donegan 259-8973
 James Moldenhauer 453-8821

Second District

Kathleen Causier 771-0123
 John Dubinski 708-9978

Third District

Tim Hanson 303-3521
 Gregory Walz-Chojnacki 475-0260

Fourth District

Dennis R. McBride 258-4574
 Jill M. Organ 302-9098

Fifth District

Bobby Pantuso 736-5700
 Joel Tilleson 226-2139

Sixth District

Brian Ewerdt 915-7379
 Jeffrey Roznowski 258-0633

Seventh District

Cheryl Berdan 550-0184
 Donald F. Birschel 476-5971

Eighth District

Jason G. Wilke 527-1146
 Craig Willson 745-5188

Library Hours



Monday through Thursday: 9 AM-9 PM
 Friday: 9 AM-5 PM
 Saturday: 9 AM-5 PM
 Sunday: 1 PM-4 PM

Closed Jan. 1, 6, and March 29 to 31.

Overdue fines, renewals 414-471-8484
 Telephone reference and adult services 414-471-8485
 Children's services 414-471-8486
 Administration/room reservations 414-471-8487

Email: contact@wauwatosalibrary.org
 Website: www.wauwatosalibrary.org

For Children and Families

MILWAUKEE BUCKS READING CHALLENGE for students in 3rd through 10th grades begins Wednesday, Jan 2nd.

DOUGHNUTS, DINOSAURS & HAMMERS recommended for children ages 4 & up; Saturday, January 19th from 10:00 – 10:45am; held in the Children's Story Room. (Note: Each child must be accompanied by an adult with his/her own hammer.) Register in person or by phone beginning Saturday, December 15th with a valid library card.

RHYME TIME for newborns through 3 year-olds with adults and siblings begins on Wed/Thurs, February 6/7th through February 20/21st; 3 week series, 20 minute sessions. This early literacy program for babies and pre-kindergarten children features rhymes, stories, songs, finger plays and dramatic movement. No registration required.

SQUIRCLE: AN AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR VISIT WITH ANDREA SKYBERG for students in Kindergarten & up will be held Friday, February 8th from 3:45 – 4:30pm in the Children's Story Room. Register in person or by phone beginning Saturday, January 12th with a valid library card.

LITTLE RED'S MOST UNUSUAL DAY presented by the **Florentine Opera Company** for students in Kindergarten through 8th Grades, Saturday, February 16th from 2:30 – 3:15pm; held in the Civic Center Auditorium. Register in person or by phone beginning Saturday, January 19th with a valid library card.

PAROCHIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART SHOW on display in the Children's Library from Wednesday, March 6 – Thursday, March 21.

LIBRARY STORY TIME for 3, 4, 5 and 6 year olds who are able to attend story time independently begins Wed/Thurs, March 6/7th through March 27/28th; 4 week series, 30 minute sessions. Programs include stories, songs, crafts, dramatic movement, and fun with literacy. No registration required.

Change in Overdue Fines

All items checked out of the Library after January 1, 2013 will be effected by a new fine structure. For books, magazines, recorded books and CDs that are returned late, the overdue fine per day will be .20. DVDs will be loaned for 7 days, rather than 3, and the fine for overdue DVDs will be \$1.00 per day.

Tax Forms

Federal and State Tax Forms and publications will be available at the Library mid-January.

AARP Tax Help

Free tax preparation help is available at no cost beginning February 5th and continuing through April 10th. Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Assistance is available for all taxpayers with an emphasis on age 60 or older. To make an appointment for AARP Tax Assistance, call the Reference Desk at 471-8485.



Health Department News



Does Your Home Have Radon?

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas. You can't see, smell or taste radon. But it may be a problem in your home. Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of lung cancer deaths every year. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today.

Smoking and radon.

Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

Radon has been found in all Wauwatosa zip codes.

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe.

You can fix a radon problem.

There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels.

You should test for radon.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy.

On December 3rd, 2012 Radon test kits will be available to Wauwatosa residents for \$5.00

Pick up at the Wauwatosa Health Department

For more information, please contact the Wauwatosa Health Department at 479-8939

Quantities limited.

Information taken from the EPA publication:

A Citizen's Guide to Radon

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

Snow Emergency Parking

During a snow emergency there is no parking on any street in Wauwatosa, except for the loading and unloading of passengers (3 minute maximum) or loading or unloading of property (30 minute maximum), provided parking restrictions are not already in place at the location.

Street Light Out?

To speed the repair of a flickering or burned out street light call the public works department at 414-471-8422 with the location of the pole.

Common Council meetings are monthly on the first and third Tuesday and Council Committees meet monthly on the second and last Tuesday. All meetings are open to the public. Call 414-479-8917 or visit www.wauwatosa.net for meeting times.

Winter Water Preparation

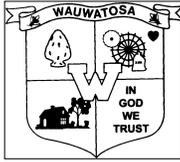
Here are some tips to prepare plumbing for the winter season:

- Turn off your outside hose bib from inside.
- Locate the water meter and make sure the area is heated.
- Make sure water meter shutoff valves operate properly so you can turn off your water in an emergency.
- Fit exposed water pipes with insulation sleeves or wrapping.
- Open the cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate around the water pipes.
- Leave a small stream of cold water flowing through a faucet during extremely cold weather.

Fire Hydrant Access

The Wauwatosa Water Utility and the fire department routinely check city fire hydrants during winter preparation. Fire hydrant visibility and accessibility are crucial during the winter. You can help by shoveling snow away from fire hydrants to make them accessible in case of fire emergency.

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City of Wauwatosa Newsletter

City Hall, 7725 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213-0068



Public Works Drop-Off Center

11100 W. Walnut Road

Hours are 7:30 AM—4:30 PM Tuesday—Saturday

Dec. 18 — Jan. 5 No permit required – only proof of residency

CLOSED December 24, 25, 31, & January 1

Important Reminders for Garbage & Recycling Collection

All carts must be at the curb by 7am on your collection day.

All materials must fit inside the cart.

Proper cart placement:

Do not put carts in the street.

Carts **must** be at the **back of the curb or alley edge**.

Three foot of clearance needed for pickup.

Clear snow as needed for proper placement.

Refer further questions to Public Works 471-8422.

Winter Reminders

Please keep the following in mind this winter:

- Clear a curb or driveway area for your refuse and recycling carts. Do not place the carts on the sidewalk or on top of a snow drift.
- Backyard refuse pickup residents need to clear a path that is at least 3 ½ feet wide from the storage area to the street.
- Keep carts accessible but clear from roadways or alleys so plows do not hit or bury them during heavy snowfalls.

A Plow Hit Your Mailbox?

If your mailbox is damaged during a plowing operation, report it immediately to the public works department at 414-471-8422. If the incident is reported by our plow operator, we may assist with a temporary mailbox upon request. We will need the following information to process a claim: address where incident occurred; date of incident; amount of damage claimed; any information such as truck number, witness names, etc. You will be notified after the city determines the claim's validity.

Read & Save the 2012 Refuse and Recycling

Guide

Inside this Newsletter

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Legislation, Licensing, and Communication Committee: Alderman Pete Donegan, Chairperson; Alderman Brian Ewerdt; Alderman Gregory Walz-Chojnacki; Alderman Joel Tilleson; Alderman Don Birschel; Editor: A. W. Brown, Administration Dept., Telephone: 414-479-8915

2012-2013 Winter Refuse and Recycling Guide

Holiday Refuse Pickup 2012

(Picked up by City crews with Fully-Automated Trucks)

Mon. Dec. 24 - Regular Monday pickup
Tues. Dec. 25 - Holiday No Collection
Wed. Dec. 26 - Pickup Tuesday 12/25
Thurs. Dec. 27 - Pickup Wednesday 12/26
Fri. Dec. 28 - Pickup Thursday 12/27
Sat. Dec 29 - Pickup Friday 12/28
Mon. Dec. 31 - Regular Monday pickup
Tues. Jan 1 - Holiday No Collection
Wed. Jan 2 - Pickup Tuesday 1/1/13
Thurs. Jan. 3 - Pickup Wednesday 1/2/13
Fri. Jan. 4 - Pickup Thurs. 1/3/13
Sat. Jan. 5 - Pickup Friday 1/4/13
Mon. Jan. 7 - Resume regular collection schedule

Holiday Recycling Pickup 2012

(Picked up by City Crews with semi-automated trucks)

Mon. Dec. 24 - Regular Monday "A" week pickup
Tues. Dec. 25 - Holiday No Collection
Wed. Dec. 26 - Pickup Tuesday 12/25 "A" week
Thurs. Dec. 27 - Pickup Wednesday 12/26 "A" week
Fri. Dec. 28 - Pickup Thursday 12/27 "A" week
Sat. Dec. 29 - Pickup Friday 12/28 "A" week
Mon. Dec. 31 - Regular Monday "B" week
Tues. Jan 1 - Holiday No Collection
Wed. Jan. 2 - Pickup Tuesday 1/1/13 "B" week
Thurs. Jan. 3 - Pickup Wednesday 1/2/13 "B" week
Fri. Jan. 4 - Pickup Thursday 1/3/13 "B" week
Sat. Jan.5 - Pickup Friday 1/4/13 "B" week
Mon. Jan. 7 - Resume regular "A" week collection