

# City of Wauwatosa Newsletter

Volume 36, Issue 4

<http://www.wauwatosa.net>

Winter 2015

## Mayor's Corner

In keeping with the upcoming holidays, I wanted to reflect on what I'm most grateful for this year.

I am grateful for our engaged and passionate residents. They are the heart and strength of our community. I am in awe of the dedication of our citizens who volunteer on City committees from Design Review Board to our Civic Celebration Committee. I'm in awe of the grassroots efforts of our citizens to build a community pool, a skate park, and a performance stage.

I am grateful for our city and school employees who have found innovative ways to maintain the level of services while facing increasing funding challenges.

I am grateful for our Block Watch program and strong neighborhood associations making our neighborhoods safer and friendlier and for the pride our residents have in their homes and public spaces.

I am grateful for our beautiful parks, Oak Leak biking trails and new Menomonee River Parkway— so everyone can enjoy outdoor activities in the heart of the City.

I am grateful that Wauwatosa is growing with more people wanting to invest in our great community giving us new dining, shopping and housing, and good places to work and excellent schools for our children.

Shaping and defining a city is not an easy task and often thankless. Your elected officials and city leaders make complex decisions affecting your lives every day, often to public dissension. Your continued efforts to be involved in your city pay off. Learn more about upcoming projects and give your opinions at public meetings. As we've seen in these grassroots efforts, we can find a common ground, work towards a common goal and be part of the solution.

I am grateful to have your public trust and be Mayor of a community with such strong values and with such a bright future. I want to hear what you are grateful for in Wauwatosa.

Please email me at [TosaGrateful@wauwatosa.net](mailto:TosaGrateful@wauwatosa.net).

Happy Holidays!

*Mayor Kathy Ehley*

## Holiday Recycling & Refuse Pickup 2015-16

### 2015

- Thurs., December 24: Regular Collection
- Fri., December 25: **CHRISTMAS DAY - NO COLLECTION**
- Sat., December 26: Collect Friday routes
- Mon., December 28: Regular Collection
- Tues., December 29: Regular Collection
- Wed., December 30: Regular Collection
- Thurs. December 31: Regular Collection

### 2016

- Fri., January 1: **NEW YEAR'S DAY - NO COLLECTION**
- Sat., January 2: Collect Friday routes
- Mon., January 4: Regular Collection
- January 4-15: **CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION**  
(No Bags/Decorations/Wreaths)

## Depositing Snow into Street Unlawful

Did you know that it is unlawful to plow or blow snow from private property into the street? When home and business owners arrange for contractors to clear snow from their property it is important that they remind their contractor of this part of the municipal code.

Wauwatosa Municipal Code, Chapter 12 Removal of Snow and Ice, Section .060.

“Throwing Snow and Ice on Street Unlawful” spells out the part of the code that prohibits anyone from leaving plowed or snow blower snow anywhere in the street right-of-way. The snow cleared from paved surfaces must remain on the property. This includes medians, boulevards, islands, and terraces (between the curb and the sidewalks). Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

ELECTED OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

FAX: 471-8989

TTY: 471-8484

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

<b>First District</b> Matt Stippich 262-345-7847 James Moldenhauer 453-8821	<b>Second District</b> Kathleen Causier 771-0123 John Dubinski 708-9978	<b>Third District</b> Tim Hanson 617-2950 Gregory Walz-Chojnacki 475-0260	<b>Fourth District</b> Dennis R. McBride 391-1140 Michael Walsh 477-2830
<b>Fifth District</b> Bobby Pantuso 736-5700 Joel Tilleson 316-2120	<b>Sixth District</b> Alison Byrne 531-2862 Jeffrey Roznowski 258-0633	<b>Seventh District</b> Cheryl Berdan 550-0184 Jason Kofroth 687-6267	<b>Eighth District</b> Jason G. Wilke 520-1962 Craig Willson 745-5188

## Library Hours



Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Friday & Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday: 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed January 1 and January 3

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](mailto:contact@wauwatosalibrary.org)  
 Website: [www.wauwatosalibrary.org](http://www.wauwatosalibrary.org)

### For Adults

A limited number of **Federal and State Tax Forms** and publications will be available at the Library mid-January.

Florentine Opera Insights **Three Decembers** Saturday, February 20, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Firefly Room.

*The lustrous chamber opera of Jake Heggie’s **Three Decembers** reveals three decades in the lives of a Broadway diva, her adult son and daughter.*

### For Children and Families

**RHYME TIME** for newborns through 3 year-olds with adults and siblings begins on Thurs/Fri, January 7/8<sup>th</sup> and ends January 21/22<sup>nd</sup>; 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.*

**MILWAUKEE BUCKS READING CHALLENGE** for students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades begins Monday, January 18th.

**LIBRARY STORY TIME** for 3, 4, 5 and 6 year olds who are able to attend story time independently begins Mon/Tues, February 1/2<sup>nd</sup> and ends February 15/16<sup>th</sup>; 3 week series, 30 minute sessions. Programs include stories, songs, dramatic movement, and fun with literacy. **Registration is required.**

**TOT TIME only** for 3-year-olds and younger with an adult in the Children’s Story Room from 9:30 – 10:00 or 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. on Fridays, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Tot Time consists of a story, a nursery rhyme, and an action song or finger play followed by interactive adult/tot block/playtime. Limited to 50 people per session; **registration is required.**

**LUNAR NEW YEAR PRESENTATION** by the ShaoLin Center, includes a Lion Dance, "Happy" Buddha, eating of the greens and various "tricks," accompanied by the complete music of drum, gong and cymbal; for families with children 3-years-old and older; Saturday, February 13th from 10:00 - 10:45 am; in the Civic Center Auditorium. No registration required.

**TOSA'S ALL-CITY READ PROGRAM** for students in Kindergarten & up will be held Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. in the Children’s Story Room. Hear stories and do activities based on the books, *A Secret River* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and the *On the Run* series by Gordon Korman. *No registration required.*

**PAROCHIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ART SHOW** on display in the Children’s Library from Tuesday, March 1st – Tuesday, March 22nd.

**RHYME TIME** for newborns through 3 year-olds with adults and siblings begins on Thurs/Fri, March 3/4<sup>th</sup> and ends March 17/18<sup>th</sup>; 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.*

### Flu Shots

The City of Wauwatosa Health Department has flu shots available at our regularly scheduled immunization clinics. The Health Department can **only** bill Standard Medicare Part B and Medicaid/Badgercare Plans. Individuals with any other insurance plans must pay \$30 (cash or check) for the vaccine. For more information on our flu clinics visit the City of Wauwatosa Health Department website at [www.wauwatosa.net/health](http://www.wauwatosa.net/health). Click on “flu” in the menu on the left side of the screen. Or call the City of Wauwatosa Health Department Information and Referral Nurse Line at 479-8939.



## 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.

**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.

Radon test kits are available at the Wauwatosa Health Department starting in January for a \$10.00 fee. Quantities are limited. For more information, please contact the Wauwatosa Health Department at 414-479-8939.

### Winter Danger: CO

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is difficult to detect without a carbon monoxide detector. The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that accidental CO kills more than 150 people per year. An additional 5000 people are injured. During the winter months the potential for carbon monoxide poisoning increases dramatically.

Common sources of CO include: gas stoves, water heaters and dryers as well as leaky chimneys, furnaces, fire places and generators.

At low concentrations of CO, a healthy person will experience fatigue. Exposure to higher concentrations leads to headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea, flu-like symptoms, impaired vision and loss of coordination.

If you experience symptoms or suspect there is CO present in your home, leave the house immediately and seek medical attention. Once you and all family members and pets are out of the house, call 911 or the fire department. Emergency workers are equipped to locate and stop the source of the poisonous gas.

## Health Department Celebrates National Accreditation

The City of Wauwatosa Health Department achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on November 13, 2015. Wauwatosa joins just seven other health departments in Wisconsin and 83 departments from across the country who are accredited.

Accredited health departments are held to standardized, national benchmarks for public health practice. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures. The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's more than 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance.

### Healthy Wauwatosa on Facebook

Find Us on Facebook! The City of Wauwatosa Health Department recently launched its new Facebook page called "Healthy Wauwatosa." The department is very excited to join the other community organizations and City departments on social media. If you are on Facebook, please find and "like" our page, Healthy Wauwatosa, for the latest health and wellness information in our community.

### Food Safety this Holiday Season

To reduce the chances of a foodborne illness becoming part of your holiday memories this year, the City of Wauwatosa Health Department recommends these four basic rules of food safety from:

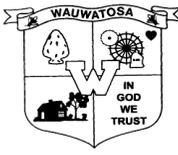
**Clean** – Wash hands and food-contact (cutting boards) surfaces often. Bacteria can spread throughout the kitchen and get into cutting boards, knives, sponges and countertops.

**Separate** – Cross-contamination can let bacteria spread from one food product to another. This is especially true for raw meat, poultry and seafood. Keep these foods and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods (such as salads).

**Cook** – Cook to proper temperatures. Foods are properly cooked when they are heated for long enough time and at a high enough temperature to kill harmful bacteria that cause foodborne illness.

**Chill** – Refrigerate foods promptly. This keeps most harmful bacteria from growing and multiplying. Refrigerators should be set between 40 degrees and 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Check the accuracy of the settings occasionally with a thermometer.

For food safety tips, please visit [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov).



# City of Wauwatosa Newsletter

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



## Election Dates

Spring Primary (if needed), February 16, 2016

Spring Election, April 5, 2016

Voters at the Spring Election will elect the Mayor, 8 Alderpersons, Court of Appeals judge, Circuit Court judges, County Executive, County Comptroller, County Supervisors, and School Board members. The April election is also the Presidential Preference Vote.

- Polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Election Day
- Call the City Clerk's office at 479-8921 if you are unsure of your voting location, or check the voter public access site <https://myvote.wi.gov/>
- Check the City's website at [www.wauwatosa.net/voterregistrationinfo](http://www.wauwatosa.net/voterregistrationinfo) for information about voter registration, or visit <https://myvote.wi.gov/> to complete a registration form
- Photo ID will be in effect for all elections; see the bottom of the City's home page at [www.wauwatosa.net](http://www.wauwatosa.net) for more information
- Visit the City's website for information about absentee voting

## Senior Assessment

Thank you to Wauwatosa seniors who participated in the 2015 "Adding Life to Years" Senior Assessment. Your responses identified strengths, needs and concerns of our seniors.

The results of the Senior Assessment prepare the City, community and its leaders to advocate in the seniors' best interests. It will be useful in the city planning, policy development and decision making by the Wauwatosa Board of Health, Senior Commission, Development Department, Mayor, City Administrator and Common Council.

The Senior Assessment results are posted on the City website: <http://www.wauwatosa.net/DocumentCenter/View/3414>

Other topics specific to seniors are available at: [www.wauwatosa.net/seniorresources](http://www.wauwatosa.net/seniorresources)

## Cold Weather Problems with My Water Pipes

Here are a few tips on how you can help yourself prepare your plumbing for the upcoming winter season. Take a little time to prepare your home before the cold weather sets in.

- Turn off your outside hose bib from inside the property and disconnect the hose.
- Make sure the area around the water meter is heated to prevent freezing.
- Make sure the water shut off valves on both sides of the water meter work properly so you can turn off your water in case of an emergency.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warmer air around the water pipes.
- During extreme cold weather, leave a small stream of cold water flowing through a faucet.

## Drop-Off Center Hours & Fee Structure

Beginning in April 2016 through August, the Drop-off Center will extend the hours on Tuesdays from 7:30am to 7pm AND Saturdays from 7:30am to 4pm.

The City will also offer a \$20 unlimited use yard waste only pass.

The Drop Off Center is located at 11100 W. Walnut Road.

### City of Wauwatosa Newsletter Winter 2015 Volume 36-4

**Government Affairs Committee:** Alderman Matthew Stippich Chairperson; Alderman Greg Walz-Chojnacki; Alderman Dennis McBride; Alderman John Dubinski; Alderwoman Allison Byrne; Alderman Bobby Pantuso; ; Alderman Craig Wilson; Alderman Jason Kofroth; Editor: A. W. Brown, Administration Dept., Telephone: 414-479-8915

# 2015 Property Taxes

The 2015 property tax bills are expected to be mailed by the week of December 7-11, 2015. These 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 10. If you do not receive a tax bill by December 15, use the city website, [www.wauwatosa.net](http://www.wauwatosa.net) to obtain a copy of the bill. Otherwise, for those taxpayers who do not have access to the internet, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 414-479-8960. Property tax payments are due January 31, 2016.

**Tax Information Is Available on the City Website.** Shortly before the tax bills are mailed, individual 2015 tax balances will be available on the City website. From the main page of the city website, [www.wauwatosa.net](http://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. In addition to balances, payment history, receipts and copies of original tax bills are all available electronically. Additionally, taxpayers will be able to make tax payments on the City website. See the next paragraph for details.

**I Dislike Long Lines, How Can I Avoid Them?** Many of us envision long lines of people at City Hall waiting to pay their property taxes in December. This is tax collection of December past. Currently, taxpayers can not only use the City website to check that the Treasurer's Office has posted their tax payment, but also can use the website to make property tax payments. Using the website is one of three ways below a taxpayer can make a payment without coming in person to City Hall, see below:

*(1) On the City Website:* By following the instructions on the website, taxpayers can enter the property tax web portal, pull up their property tax balance, and click the "Make an Online Payment" button. They would then complete the payment process & receive e-mail confirmation. It is that simple. The transaction is also displayed on web portal in pending status with a receipt date equal to the date the transaction was completed. Please note that fees do apply. There are flat fees for electronic checks and percentage fees for credit card payments.

*(2) By Mail:* 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". If you receive a property tax escrow check, make sure it is endorsed by one or both mortgage holders. Mailed payments are receipted using the U.S. Postal Service postmark as the receipt date.

*(3) 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.

**If you choose to wait in line...** If you choose not to partake in the above timesavers, payments can also be made in person at the Treasurer's Office by cash, check or credit card. Business hours are Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM. Please bring the tax bill so that receipt information can be validated directly onto the bill. City Hall is closed on weekends, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Treasurer's Office will have special holiday hours on New Year's Eve from 9 AM – Noon.

**What if my escrow check is larger than my tax due?** : When the escrow check is greater than the tax balance, the overpayment is refunded to the taxpayer. Escrow overpayments should be sent to the Finance Department, 7725 W. North Ave, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Taxpayers will receive their refund check in about a week - it is not necessary to come in person.

**My Mortgage Company Paid My Taxes.** Payments received by the City directly from mortgage companies are typically not received by our office until the last few days of December or January (the month depends on each taxpayer's individual mortgage agreement). The City website will have information on the status of these types of payments towards the end of December and January. Payments, when received, are viewable on the property tax web portal.

**I Need A Receipt:** The easiest way to obtain a receipt is to use the City website and download a tax summary document. Our office will mail a tax summary to those taxpayers who make a payment but still owe a balance. Taxpayers can also enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a payment sent via mail or dropped in the night depository – please include the parcel number on the envelope.

**I Have More Questions About My Property Taxes.** For frequently asked questions on property taxes, visit the "How Do I?" section of the City website and scroll down to the Treasurer's Office section. Or, call your friendly neighborhood Treasurer's Office at 414-479-8960. We are happy to provide any information that will clarify your understanding of this year's property taxes.