



Wauwatosa

It's A Way Of Life

Fall 2021 Newsletter



Fall Leaf Collection

We pick up leaves and soft plant material (including pumpkins) at the curb for all residential properties in Wauwatosa.

You may begin raking leaves out to the street as early as Monday, October 11, 2021. You may continue to rake leaves out to the street until Sunday, November 21, 2021.

Sometimes we extend the final rake out date if weather permits. We would share this on our website and on social media.

During leaf collection we make three passes through the City with one final collection occurring after the final rake out deadline.

You can see your scheduled leaf collection by searching for "fall leaf collection" on wauwatosa.net.

Follow the City Budget Discussions

We are in the process of developing the operating and capital budgets. Our operating budget represents day-to-day expenses, wages, utilities, and purchases of items intended to last less than a year. The capital budget includes infrastructure, city property, and long-term equipment purchases.

- October 5: Committee of the Whole will discuss a budget overview.
- October 12: Financial Affairs will discuss the Library, Tourism, Development, Finance, TIF, Debt, and Non-Departmental budgets
- October 21: Financial Affairs will discuss the Public Works, Fire, Health, and Police budgets
- October 26: Financial Affairs will discuss Municipal Court, Administration, Benefits, City Clerk, Assessor, and IT budgets. Financial Affairs will tentatively recommend final budget decisions on this night, to be confirmed by Council in November.
- October 28: Financial Affairs will discuss the Utilities budget, an Operating Budget overflow, and the Capital Budget
- November 9: Financial Affairs will continue discussion on the Capital Budget.

There will be a public hearing on the city budget on November 2, and the budget is planned for adoption on November 16, 2021.

Throughout the budget process, you can attend in person, view meetings on wauwatosa.net/MeetingPortal, email your input to comment@wauwatosa.net, or contact your elected officials.

View an executive summary and individual department narratives of the budget at wauwatosa.net/MeetingPortal.

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www.facebook.com/CityOfWauwatosa
[@WauwatosaWI](https://twitter.com/WauwatosaWI) • www.youtube.com

www.wauwatosa.net

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

2 | Mayor's Corner
How to Deal with Turkeys

4 | American Rescue Plan Act Funds - How to Allocate Tosa's \$24 Million

6 | Referendum April 2022: Size of Common Council

City of Wauwatosa Elected Officials

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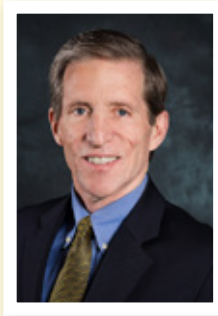
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Mayor's Corner

Message from Mayor Dennis McBride

Recently, I attended a meeting of Milwaukee County's mayors and village presidents. The mayor of Franklin, who hosted the meeting, passed out a fact sheet about his city, of which he is justly proud. I learned of Franklin's demographic and economic similarities to Wauwatosa, but was particularly struck by one statistic: in Milwaukee County, the leading communities in terms of property tax revenue are the City of Milwaukee (43.9%), Wauwatosa (9.8%), and Franklin (6.7%). West Allis, with a far bigger population than ours – 60,325 compared with 48,387 – ranks fourth (6.1%), and Oak Creek, whose development activity has received lots of media attention, is fifth (5.5%). Per capita, Wauwatosa ranks first among these communities.

All this demonstrates that Wauwatosa is an economic powerhouse which offers many family-supporting jobs and remains a desirable community in which people want to live, work, and play. We should all be proud of our success and continue to welcome all those who want to enjoy what we have to offer.

How to Deal with Turkeys

Turkeys have adapted very well to urban environments, and they can be a common sight in Wauwatosa. While many people enjoy seeing them, they can become a nuisance and cause problems. Here are some things you can do to keep turkeys from nesting on your property:

- Do not feed the turkeys; Remove birdseed from the ground to eliminate an easy food source
- Collect fruits or nuts that fall from trees and dispose of them off your property
- Use predator decoys, sticks, and noise machines on fences; Use nontoxic, biodegradable repellents like Methyl anthranilate on crops, gardens, and lawns to keep turkeys from using the area. The taste will deter turkeys without harming them.

The City of Wauwatosa does not use turkey traps or other animal control devices on turkeys. We encourage residents to let wildlife, including turkeys, to coexist in our urban landscape.





CITY OF WAUWATOSA News in Brief



★ Trick-Or-Treat in Your Neighborhood

Wauwatosa's trick-or-treat hours are Sunday, October 31, 2021 1-4pm. However, we find that the popularity of these hours is highly dependent upon your neighborhood. Contact your neighborhood association to see if there are special events in your area. The Health Department also recommends safer ways to celebrate: wearing a mask while trick-or-treating, keeping your event small, avoiding buffet style food options, and exploring alternative options like drive through trick-or-treating or individual treats to avoid in-person contact.

★ Where Can I Recycle Plastic Bags?

Grocery bags, the wrap around paper towels and diapers, and more can be recycled along with plastic bags. Except in a few cases, plastic film cannot be recycled in your bin at home. Instead, it must be taken to a drop-off location, like a grocery store, to be recycled. Find a drop-off location near you: plasticfilmrecycling.org

★ Hiring Crossing Guards

No matter the weather, our crossing guards help us use safe routes to school. All City Management Services provides crossing guards for Wauwatosa schools, and they are hiring. Crossing guards work 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon for \$12.00 per hour. They will receive paid training, must be 18 and over, and willing to work in all weather conditions. Contact Regional Manager Jennifer Metcalf (262) 233-3066 or visit acmssafety.com/careers to apply.

★ Schedule Your Flu Shot

Getting a flu vaccine is important to protect yourself, your family and your community from flu. A flu vaccine this season can also help reduce the burden on our healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and save medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients. If you haven't gotten your flu vaccine yet, get vaccinated now! View a directory of where to get flu shots in our area: wauwatosa.net/flu

★ How to Get Involved in Wauwatosa

Did you know that Wauwatosa has boards, committees, and commissions composed of citizen volunteers? Go to wauwatosa.net/meetingportal to find a description of each committee, a list of current members, identify which committees have vacancies, and submit an application to serve.



Vacancy Rates in Wauwatosa

Vacancy rates are one of the key statistics the National Association of Home Builders track to judge the health and direction of the housing market. The city receives data through CoStar, a commercial real estate data and analytics provider. For general comparison, the median rental vacancy rate in the United States has hovered around 6.5% in recent years and an average annual vacancy rate between 5 - 8 % is considered a healthy range.

Through August, 2021, Wauwatosa's vacancy rates are:

- 2.6% for apartments with 4-25 units
- 3.3% for apartments with 26+ units

What does Wauwatosa's low vacancy rate indicate?

Low vacancy rates are typically interpreted as a sign of tight housing markets, with lower vacancy rates signaling a greater housing shortage, and vice versa for high vacancy rates. While the general perception of property vacancies may be a negative one, vacancy on some level is necessary for a healthy market and economy. Healthy vacancy rates ensure rents remain relatively stable and assist employers in recruiting and retaining workers who can find and afford a place to live in the community.

How can the vacancy rate be low when I see "for rent" signs?

You might see a "for rent" sign at an apartment building even if there are no immediate vacancies. Leasing agencies advertise because they want potential tenants to inquire about their residential communities and availability and have a database of prospective clients to contact as units become available.

American Rescue Plan Act: Public Involvement

The City of Wauwatosa has been designated as the recipient of just over \$24 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. This is a federal relief package aimed at providing economic support directly to communities from effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are strict federal guidelines about how Wauwatosa can allocate these funds. The funds must support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, or invest in water or sewer infrastructure. (Wauwatosa cannot use these funds for broadband investments because the city does not have a qualified census tract, and all residents and businesses currently have access to high-speed internet through private providers.)

We will be holding in person and virtual public meetings to talk about the federal guidelines of types of projects that are eligible and hear ideas for potential projects to fund. When we have public meeting dates, we'll post them to our American Rescue Plan Act webpage (wauwatosa.net/ARPA) and notify subscribers.

Sign up for our email list to get notifications about upcoming meetings: wauwatosa.net/ARPA



Tosa Photos Contest

Each year the City of Wauwatosa holds a photo contest and invites the community to share their best photos of Wauwatosa.

Photographers of all ages and skill levels are invited to compete in the following categories: cityscapes, community engagement, environment, and popular vote.

View this year's photos at TosaPhotos.com. Join us in 2022 for our next photo contest.

CITY OF WAUWATOSA

Construction & Development News



Zoo Interchange - North Avenue and Burleigh

Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation started their work on the North Leg of the Zoo Interchange. The North leg will be under construction for about three years. You can expect overnight freeway closures and other impacts to traffic. Follow their updates: projects.511wi.gov

This 1.7-mile reconstruction project will expand I-41 to eight lanes from Swan Boulevard to Burleigh Street in the City of Wauwatosa. It includes some of the busiest freeway sections in the state. The project includes new bridges at Mayfair Road, North Avenue, Meinecke Street and a new bridge for the Union Pacific Railroad. The design also calls for several retaining walls and noise walls along the interstate corridor.



2023 Construction on North Avenue

The City and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation are currently planning for construction on North Avenue between Mayfair Road and N. 95th Street. Construction is planned for 2023.

The purpose of the project is to address the deteriorated pavement condition, aged public utilities, known safety and operational issues, and substandard bike and pedestrian facilities within this section of North Avenue.

Some of the project upgrades include:

- Reconstruction of the road, curb and gutter, and sidewalk
- Utility replacement including storm sewer, traffic signals and street lighting
- Bicycle lanes, pedestrian sidewalk and curb ramp upgrades
- And other upgrades

We will have an in-person public information meeting in November 2021. We'll also upload meeting materials to the project website. Sign up for email updates at wauwatosa.net/NorthAve.



Sign up for Construction News

Do you want to stay connected with what is going on in Wauwatosa? We offer several options for email lists. Log on to wauwatosa.net/construction for more information.



Referendum April 2022: Size of Common Council

The Common Council is asking voters to decide if the size of the Common Council should be reduced from 16 to 12 members. This includes creating term limit for alderpersons, so that no person could serve more than two consecutive four-year terms (unless one full term or more has passed since that person last held office).

In April 2022, voters will see the following on their ballot: "Shall the Charter Ordinance be adopted as presented to the Common Council on July 20, 2021, to reduce the number of alderpersons per district from two (2) per aldermanic district to one (1) per district, define twelve (12) aldermanic districts, create term limits for alderpersons, establish transitional procedures and establish effective dates?"

If you vote yes, this means you support reducing the size of the Common Council from 16 to 12 members, providing for one alderperson per district, creating term limits for elected officials, and related ordinance amendments.

If you vote no, this means that you support the Common Council remaining at 16 members, providing two alderpersons per district. There would be no term limits for alderpersons.

If the referendum passes by a majority vote, in April 2026, alders in the 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 districts are elected for only a two-year term. Then, in April 2028, all aldermanic positions elected in April 2028 will serve a four-year term.

If the referendum does not pass, Wauwatosa would continue to have 16 alderpersons - two alderpersons in each of the eight districts.

Follow city news at wauwatosa.net for updates about the referendum.

Senior Center Services

The Wauwatosa Senior Centers at Hart Park and the Civic Center are vital to the health and well-being of our community. We adapted our programs to safely provide means of social engagement and activity.

Activities include but not limited to: Cards (bridge, sheephead and rummy), daily lunch program, speakers and special events, Friday afternoon movies, trips, book discussion, and exercise classes.

The centers also provides voter assistance, meals, transportation referrals, access to technology, and more. Reach out with questions on how to become a member and participate: (414) 471-8495



➔ Ways to Engage

ONLINE: Visit us at www.wauwatosa.net

IN PERSON: Visit us Monday-Friday, from 8 am - 4:30 pm at City Hall
7725 W. North Avenue | Wauwatosa, WI 53213

BY PHONE: Call us at (414) 479-8900

BY SOCIAL MEDIA:

 www.facebook.com/CityOfWauwatosa

 [twitter @WauwatosaWI](https://twitter.com/WauwatosaWI)

 <https://www.youtube.com>