



Wauwatosa

It's A Way Of Life

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Proposed Vehicle Registration Fee

Wauwatosa is proposing a vehicle registration fee (also known as "wheel tax") as part of the 2019 budget. Here are the main reasons why we are proposing this vehicle registration fee:

Our infrastructure needs planned maintenance. For decades, we didn't adequately repair our streets, water pipes, sewer pipes and storm sewer. Our Common Council determined we should turn this around and begin making the necessary infrastructure updates.

We primarily pay for infrastructure with borrowed funds, but a solid financial practice would be to pay for at least a portion of our this work through cash on hand.

In fact, if we used the revenue from a vehicle registration fee to pay for roadwork over the next 25 years, the proposed vehicle registration fee would reduce our costs to do the work by \$4.04 million dollars by saving money on interest.

Closing the Dark Store Loophole What is it, and why should you care?

The Dark Store Loophole is a tax break trick that commercial and manufacturing property owners use to save themselves from paying their fair share of property taxes.

Tax attorneys for big box stores use the Dark Store Loophole to argue that the value of a new store in a busy, popular area should be based on the value of empty stores.

If a big box retailer uses the Dark Store Loophole to cut the amount they pay in property taxes, then residents have to pay the difference in order to maintain current city services.

If this loophole is not fixed, the tax burden shifts to homeowners. Research by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities shows Milwaukee County communities like Wauwatosa could see homeowners' property tax increase by 7 percent or more.

"Wisconsin homeowners already pay a 68% of all property taxes and may soon pay an even bigger share. Big box retailers use municipal services like police and fire, too, but soon will pay even less for them," said Shannon Krause, City of Wauwatosa Assessor.

Contact your state legislators to tell them to close the Dark Store Loophole.



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

www.wauwatosa.net

City of Wauwatosa Elected Officials

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Mayor's Corner

Message from Mayor Kathleen Ehley

The City Administrator and I recently presented the proposed City 2019 budget to the Common Council. In 2019, we are focusing on efficiency and excellence in service delivery. We're pleased to highlight the innovative ideas our city staff have to service the community. This budget pursues a levy increase for operating costs to better keep pace with inflation (2.7%) and cover debt. The result is a 2.16% levy increase by the City. For the average residential taxpayer (home valued at \$223,000), this means a tax increase of \$44.23.

I will continue my efforts of the past two years to get the state legislature to close the dark store tax loophole for commercial and property owners. Currently we have 13 lawsuits pending from commercial properties seeking lower property tax assessments. For example, one Walgreens in Wauwatosa sold for \$8 million but is arguing its tax assessment should be \$1.5 million, just like a shop that is "dark" or vacant. These lawsuits could mean a loss of about a \$5.3 million, and the tax burden shifts to homeowners and small businesses.

Fall Leaf Collection

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

You may begin raking leaves out to the street as early as Saturday, October 13. You may continue to rake leaves out to the street until Sunday, November 18.

Sometimes we extend the final rake out date if weather permits.

During leaf collection we generally 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.





CITY OF WAUWATOSA News in Brief

City of
WAUWATOSA
City Hall
Civic Center
Library

* **Green Dye can be expected in Grantosa, Menomonee River**

As a part of efforts to reduce clearwater entry into the sanitary sewer system, we will be performing dye water testing of sewers, particularly on the North side of Wauwatosa through mid-November. When completed, the dyed water will be released into the downstream storm sewer system which drains to the Menomonee River.

* **Taking Back Unused or Expired Medications**

As part of the Tosa Green Summit, the Health and Police Departments were available to safely take your unused or expired medications. They collected over 250 lbs during this one-day event. If you missed the event, you can visit the Police Department during select hours to drop off your medications.

* **Wauwatosa Earns Prestigious Insurance Rating**

The Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification rating of Class 1 rating process evaluates three main areas of a community – Emergency Communications, Water Supply (fire hydrants and available water), and the Fire Department operations, training, and community risk reduction. Less than 1% of communities earn this rating of high quality fire prevention, water availability and dispatcher skills.



* **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. The good news is that there are more than 135 locations in 53213 that collect plastic film for recycling. Chances are there's a drop-off location near you! plasticfilmrecycling.org

* **#TosaLife Photo Contest Captures Hundreds of Photos**

We received 168 fantastic photos this year, and gathered a total of 1,050 votes for the popular vote category. One of the winning photos is pictured below: Gary Koch - "Leading the East Tosa Gran Prix." Go to tosaphotos.com to see all submitted photos.



Vote in the General Election

Tuesday, November 6

The polls are open from 7 am - 8 pm. [Visit myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) to see a sample ballot, find your voting location, or request an absentee ballot.

In-person absentee voting at the City Clerk's office will take place between 8 am and 4:30 pm the weeks of October 22 and October 29; (November 2 until 5 pm). Photo ID is required.

Photo ID is in effect; voters must present photo ID before receiving a ballot. Except for voters on the permanent absentee ballot list, absentee ballot requests must be accompanied by a photo ID unless it has been previously submitted.

Please call the City Clerk's office (414) 479-8921 with questions.



Flu Clinics Available

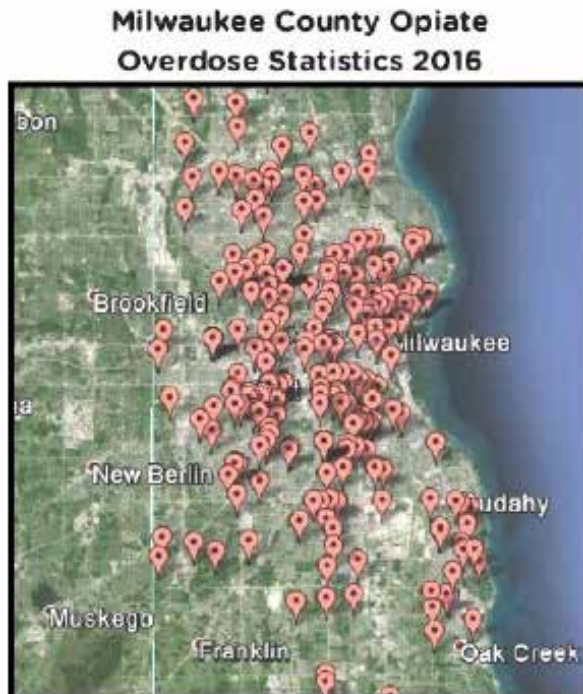
Schedule your flu shot in the Lower Civic Center at City Hall on Thursday, October 11 or Thursday, November 15 from 3:00-5:00pm.

Children 18 years and under are free; adults are \$30.

Call the Wauwatosa Health Department with questions: (414) 479-8936

Substance Abuse Resource Guide

We want to assist families in preventing opiate misuse as well as provide information and resources to individuals who are currently dealing with addiction. To do this, we applied for and received a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Opioid Harm Prevention Program to create an interactive teen bedroom exhibit and a substance use information guide.



Each marker represents one overdose death.

Source: <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Medical-Examiner>

The Wauwatosa Substance Use Resource Guide includes additional information about substance use, addiction, and mental health. It also includes personal stories and relevant, local resources for substance use treatment, mental health providers, and medication disposal. The resource guide is available on our website at wauwatosa.net/health.

As a part of our Community Health Improvement Plan, the Wauwatosa Health Department (WHD) leads Healthy Wauwatosa, a group of community partners, residents, and city government. This is a community-wide effort to help make Wauwatosa a healthier place to live, work, learn and play. At the end of 2017, the group identified four priority areas to work on over the next 5 years. Workgroups were created to work on these priorities, which include substance use and mental health.

A goal of the substance use workgroup is to increase awareness and education on opiates and prescription drugs. Follow the Health Department for continued resources and progress on this important issue.

CITY OF WAUWATOSA Construction & Development News



Construction Map Unveiled

Earlier this year we surveyed you: what type of communication is important to you? The top answer was enhancing our construction communication. We created a custom online interactive map in which people can see construction by the City of Wauwatosa, construction by other organizations such as We Energies, and projects under consideration which highlights work we anticipate in the near future. View it: wauwatosa.net/construction



2018 Village Reconstruction

By Thanksgiving 2018, reconstruction of State Street from 68th to 74th will be complete, weather-dependent. We have already replaced 100-year old infrastructure, re-built the street, added lighting and trees, and started sidewalk construction. We're adding a new sidewalk on the south side of State Street and a new pedestrian crossing of the railroad tracks at 74th St. Also ahead is resurfacing Hart Park Lane and the Harwood Pedestrian Bridge.



6330 W North Avenue

The property at 6330 W North Avenue has been vacant since 2014 and is currently owned by the City of Wauwatosa's Community Development Authority. We received three proposals for consideration and will soon announce a decision about this property. Follow our website for more details: wauwatosa.net



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.



Save the Date!

October 7 * 6 pm
Fire Department Open House

October 13 * 8 am - 12 pm
Last Farmers Market in the Village

October 18 * 6 pm
Root Series Concert

October 20 * 10 am - 12 pm
Trunk or Treat

October 20 * 1 - 1:45pm
Storytelling at the Wauwatosa Public Library with Brookfield Center for the Arts

October 28 * 1 - 4 pm
Wauwatosa Trick-or-Treat
(Check with your neighborhood association for different hours in your area)

October - February
Football Parties at The Landing

November 10
All-Tosa Cribbage Tournament

November 10 * 10 - 11am
Sensory Story Time

November 10 - 11
Wauwatosa Curling Club FunSpiel

November 30
Holiday Tree Lighting

December 6 * 6:30 pm
Family Movie Night (Library)

Brainfuse: Homework and Career Help Available through Library

Brainfuse is an on-demand eLearning resource for all ages. The online service offers homework help in core subjects, and the adult learning center has help for GED prep, U.S. Citizenship test prep, resume assistance, Microsoft Office classes, and other career resources.

Here's what it looks like: a student can upload a paper or homework question for personalized live feedback from tutors, available 2 pm - 1 am, CST. Students communicate with live, online tutors using an interactive, virtual whiteboard to chat, write, or paste images. A live tutor can also review test prep questions from college prep quizzes.

This connection to a live tutor works the same for adult learning. Upload your resume for feedback, review test skills via videochat, or learn Excel, PowerPoint or other programs from a live expert.

All tutors have Master's degrees or higher, previous teaching or tutoring experience, have passed rigorous proficiency tests in the area in which they specialize, and undergo regular training.

Go to wauwatosalibrary.org to access Brainfuse under the "Research Tools" tab. You must have a Wauwatosa library card to access these at home, but you can access them in-person at the library during regular business hours.

"Whether it's an elementary student needing homework help, a college student working with standardized tests, or an adult looking for resume assistance, our patrons are able to get live support that will meet their individual needs."

Pete Loeffel
Director, Wauwatosa Public Library

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

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 <https://www.youtube.com>