






# CITY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



## Need to Know Items:

-  Leaf collection begins Monday, Oct. 13. Collection will continue through November, weather permitting. See Page 3 for more details.
-  Wauwatosa’s Common Council recently approved the next step related to the Wauwatosa and West Allis Fire Merger. See Page 3 for more details.
-  Citywide trick-or-treat is Sunday, Oct. 26, from 1-4 p.m. Check with your neighborhood association to learn neighborhood-specific plans.

**Want to hear from us more often?** Subscribe to Wauwatosa’s News in Brief – our city’s biweekly email newsletter. Every other Friday, we deliver the latest city news to your inbox. Subscribe by scanning the QR code or visiting [wauwatosa.net/enews](http://wauwatosa.net/enews).



### Stormwater Solutions

*Learn about stormwater and sustainability in Firefly Grove Park.*  
Page 4.



### Flood Assistance Available

*Learn more about how and where to apply for flood assistance.*  
Page 3.



### Mama Rosa’s Economic Impact

*Learn about how our newest public art installation is driving the local economy.*  
Page 4.

## City of Wauwatosa Elected Officials



### MAYOR

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### DISTRICT 4

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### DISTRICT 5

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# THE MAYOR'S CORNER

*A Message From Mayor Dennis McBride*



On Saturday, August 9, 2025, rain began falling in Wauwatosa – and falling, and falling, and didn't stop falling until the following day. As what was called “a 1,000-year flood” drenched us, we wondered if we needed to board Noah's Ark.

Wauwatosa received 8-14 inches of rain. In two hours, the Menomonee River rose from its usual shallow depth to 14 feet and overflowed its banks. The raging river devastated scores of homes and businesses and severely damaged the Hart Park stadium, playground, and softball field.

Fortunately, Wauwatosa has superheroes. Our police officers and firefighters braved the flood waters to rescue and protect countless residents. Our public works crews swung into action immediately, as they always do in major storms, securing City property and collecting over 1,000 tons of debris on more than 1,900 service trips. City Hall employees worked all weekend, and beyond, to coordinate the response and provide emergency information to residents.

We owe all our employees gratitude for their bravery and skill. Please give them your thanks, too.

## Ways You Can Engage:

**Online:** [www.wauwatosa.net](http://www.wauwatosa.net)

**In person:** 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday (7725 W. North Ave.)

 [www.facebook.com/CityofWauwatosa](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWauwatosa)

 [@CityofWauwatosa](https://www.instagram.com/CityofWauwatosa)

# Wauwatosa's News in Brief

*The latest city news.*

## Wauwatosa Leaf Collection

Leaf collection began on Monday, Oct. 13. Throughout the collection season, crews will make continuous rounds throughout the city. Leaf collection will continue through November, weather permitting. You have options for what you can do with your leaves. Try leaf mulching. Running a mower over dry leaves shreds them into nutrient-rich mulch that disappears into your lawn. No raking required. Place leaves at the curb, either loose or in paper yard-waste bags. Bags are accepted. Containers are not. Keep other yard debris separate. Branches, grass clippings, and other materials jam equipment. We do not collect these items. Learn more about leaf collection at [wauwatosa.net/leafcollection](http://wauwatosa.net/leafcollection).

## 2026 City Budget Process

The 2026 budget process kicked off this week with an overview presentation to the Committee of the Whole. You can [watch the presentation here](#). Following the budget process is a great way to stay informed on the city's revenue and spending plan for the year ahead. Upcoming budget meeting dates, along with their discussion items, are available [on our website](#).

## Mama Rosa's Economic Impact

Since the official opening of Firefly Grove Park and Mama Rosa on May 28, 2025, more than 62,000 visitors have come to 1900 N. 116th Street in Wauwatosa, generating an estimated \$4,066,896 in economic impact. Preliminary data (May 28 – June 30, 2025) highlights include: a total visitation of 62,173 people, 23,277 local visitors from Wauwatosa zip codes, and 38,896 from outside Wauwatosa, coming from 32 different states.

## Approved Next Step: Wauwatosa and West Allis Fire Merger

On Tuesday, Sept. 30, Wauwatosa's Common Council directed city staff to begin working on an executive summary of what shared Fire and EMS services between Wauwatosa and West Allis could look like. This plan will be presented at public meetings in the next 30-90 days. To be clear, a merged fire department has not yet been approved. This is step one of many in the potential consolidation process. If both the Wauwatosa and West Allis Common Councils approve the plan of a merged fire department, then city staff would apply for the state Innovation Grant.

## Flood Damage? Apply for Federal Assistance

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are open across Milwaukee County to assist individuals who have uninsured losses or emergency needs related to the August storms and flooding. At a DRC, you can speak to representatives from county, state, and federal agencies and apply for federal assistance. You don't need to visit a DRC location to receive FEMA assistance; apply online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or by phone at 800-621-3362.

## Fall Programming at the Library

The Wauwatosa Public Library offers engaging programs for all ages, and this fall is no exception. Little ones can enjoy story times, teens can connect through special events and activities, and older adults receive support and social connections through recurring programs like Tosa Tech Time. Don't forget about this community resource. Visit [www.wauwatosalibrary.org](http://www.wauwatosalibrary.org) for more information on upcoming programs.



# Stormwater Solutions in Firefly Grove Park

Some might associate Firefly Grove Park with Mama Rosa (the giant troll art sculpture), the looping pump track, or the whimsical living willow hut. But for those who look closer, the park also tells another story - one about water and sustainability. Wauwatosa's newest park, located at 1900 N. 116th Street, is centered around stormwater best management practices.

Prior to the 1970s, this area was a landfill. After it was filled, it was just long grass up to your knees with water that wasn't optimal for runoff.



After a major transformation, the park now features three major stormwater best management practices (BMPs): an engineered wetland, a biofiltration basin, and porous pavement walkways. Together, these systems capture, store, and filter nearly 580,000 gallons of stormwater before it flows into the existing wetlands nestled along the park's east side.

The engineered wetland alone holds more than 218,000 gallons, using native plants and soils to slow and clean the water. The biofiltration basin provides another 205,000 gallons of storage, allowing stormwater to soak naturally into the ground. Porous pavement paths add over 155,000 gallons of storage by letting rain filter through slowly rather than run off hard surfaces.

The City leveraged local partnerships to ensure that every stormwater element was fully funded through Fresh Coast Green Communities and the MMSD Green Solutions Funding program. These stormwater features help protect the neighborhood from flooding, improve water quality, and revitalize a once-overlooked property.

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