






CITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026



Need to Know Items:

-  Yard Waste Collection begins April 27, 2026. See Page 3 for more details.
-  Elected officials listed on Page 2 remain in effect until Tuesday, April 28, 2026. An updated list of elected officials and their contact information will be listed on the city's website on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
-  Save the Date: ART 64 takes over the Village streets on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, 2026. Learn more at www.discoverart64.com

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.



Fire Merger Moves Forward

The Common Councils from Wauwatosa and West Allis have approved a joint fire department.
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Yard Waste Collection

Schedule, reminders, and how to purchase a new, city-serviced cart.
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Repairs Following 2025 Flooding

Learn about our plan to repair flood damage in Hart Park.
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City of Wauwatosa Elected Officials*

*Through Tuesday, April 28, 2026.



MAYOR

Dennis McBride

mayor@wauwatosa.net | (414) 479-8915

DISTRICT 1

James Moldenhauer

jmoldenhauer@wauwatosa.net | (414) 453-8821

Andrew Meindl

ameindl@wauwatosa.net | (262) 696-9117

DISTRICT 2

Margaret Arney

marney@wauwatosa.net | (414) 732-7498

Brad Foley

bfoley@wauwatosa.net | (414) 477-9132

DISTRICT 3

Robin Brannin

rbrannin@wauwatosa.net | (262) 853-2680

Joseph Makhlof II

jmakhlof@wauwatosa.net | (414) 578-7937

DISTRICT 4

Ernst Franzen

efranzen@wauwatosa.net | (414) 510-5575

David R. Lewis

dlewis@wauwatosa.net | (414) 343-9549

DISTRICT 5

Sean Lowe

slowe@wauwatosa.net | (262) 269-1536

Rob Gustafson

rgustafson@wauwatosa.net | (414) 522-1238

DISTRICT 6

Aletha Champine

achampine@wauwatosa.net | (414) 737-2427

Joe Phillips

jphillips@wauwatosa.net | (414) 875-7659

DISTRICT 7

Amanda Fuerst

afuerst@wauwatosa.net | (262) 372-1060

Mike Morgan

mmorgan@wauwatosa.net | (414) 335-9467

DISTRICT 8

Melissa Dolan

mdolan@wauwatosa.net | (414) 704-5610

Jason Wilke

jwilke@wauwatosa.net | (414) 520-1962

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

A Message From Mayor Dennis McBride



Wauwatosa is regularly, and proudly, designated a "Tree City." Occasionally, residents tell me that a City tree in front of their home has died and they would like the same tree they had before. That is not always desirable.

The "tree dashboard" [on the City's website](#) shows where every City tree is located, and explains that maple, ash, linden, and honey locust trees make up two-thirds of our urban forest. This is not a healthy balance. About 60 years ago, our over-reliance on elm trees resulted in a citywide die-off when Dutch elm disease arrived. We didn't learn our lesson, because we replaced the dead elms with fast-growing ash trees. For the past 15-20 years, those trees have been destroyed by emerald ash borers. To prevent that from happening again, our City arborists select from among 116 species to increase our tree diversity and minimize the risk of pests or diseases devastating our beautiful tree-lined streets. When trees are replaced, we now plant different species to ensure that our forest will continue to thrive.

Ways to Connect:

Online: www.wauwatosa.net

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

 www.facebook.com/CityofWauwatosa

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

Wauwatosa's News in Brief

The latest city news.

Save the Date: ART 64

ART 64, a two-day bracket-style live painting tournament, is returning to the streets of the Village on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6. This summer, watch 64 artists compete head-to-head for the \$20,000 grand prize. ART 64 highlights diverse artists nationwide and encourages spectators (in-person and virtually) to vote for their favorite artists to the next round of competition while enjoying the event atmosphere and local businesses.

Visit www.discoverart64.com to learn more.

Wauwatosa and West Allis Approve Joint Fire Department

The Common Councils of Wauwatosa and West Allis have each voted to approve an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to create a joint fire department, named Milwaukee Metro Fire Rescue. This historic collaboration reflects both communities' shared commitment to providing cost-effective municipal services, prioritizing fiscal responsibility, and excellent fire and EMS services to the community.

There are many next steps before a joint fire department can officially begin. One step is for Milwaukee Metro Fire Rescue to apply for funding through the State Innovation Fund, which offers a significant opportunity for the merged department. Under the program's rules, Milwaukee Metro Fire Rescue could be eligible for an annual payment of over \$4.25 million, totaling between \$16 million and \$21 million over five years, depending on funding availability. This grant would provide critical support for the successful implementation and sustainability of the joint department. Other steps related to beginning a joint fire department include forming a governing board and fire commission, and working on decisions that would affect facilities, staffing, and more. We anticipate the joint fire department to begin operations in early 2027.

Yard Waste Collection: Schedule, Reminders, and More

Yard waste collection begins on April 27, 2026, and is collected the week opposite of your recycling collection. If you have purchased an official city yard waste cart (cart with the bright green lid), there is a 200-pound weight limit. All other containers and/or bundles of brush have a 50-pound weight limit. We ask that you separate leaves and brush from other household garbage during yard waste collection. Yard waste includes leaves, twigs, small tree limbs, flowers, garden, shrub, or tree trimmings. We do not collect grass clippings, dirt or soil (other than residual from pulled plants), or mulch. If you're interested in purchasing a city-serviced yard waste cart (\$90.02 including tax), visit www.wauwatosa.net.

Wauwatosa Construction in 2026

Wauwatosa is making significant investments in infrastructure in 2026, with several projects planned to improve streets, utilities, and pedestrian access. These improvements focus on enhancing safety, modernizing aging infrastructure, and improving neighborhood connectivity. Key projects include construction on Watertown Plank Road, Center Street, sidewalk improvements, and more. For project timelines, details, and updates, visit www.wauwatosa.net/construction



Hart Park Repairs Following Historic Flooding

In August 2025, Wauwatosa experienced a historic 1,000-year flood that caused extensive damage across the community, particularly Hart Park. Damage includes the stadium, bleachers, turf, playground, softball field, and other nearby amenities. Total storm-related damage is estimated at roughly \$4 million in Hart Park.



After the flooding, the City followed required procedures to preserve the possibility of FEMA reimbursement: an important but time-consuming step designed to protect taxpayers. At this point, the stadium is not eligible for FEMA funding.

An appeal was denied at the state level. Wauwatosa is also not eligible for any State disaster relief aid.

Wauwatosa is very fortunate to have received a \$1 million donation from the TOSA Foundation to support recovery efforts.

However, there are unresolved funding questions. How might Wauwatosa pay for the remaining repairs? To what extent would we repair the areas to their existing conditions, or would we create different park elements in those areas? We anticipate having future public meetings to discuss these decisions with the public and Common Council.

The Common Council has approved contracts for turf repairs, cleaning of the stadium's storm sewer system, and repairs near the bleachers.

Timeline:

- March 2026 – work begins to clean the stadium's storm sewer system
- When the ground is not frozen (potentially April or May) – work on the field and turf can begin
- May 15 – Target date for completion. This is highly dependent upon the weather.

Visit www.wauwatosa.net to stay informed on repairs and find answers to frequently asked questions.