

From the Waupun Mayor –
Hello Waupun,

Since the news of the arrests at Waupun Correctional back in May, and the fallout that occurred in June, things have really quieted down with corrections issues. Largely because everyone became focused on the election, and then the holidays. This seems like a good time for me to update what's happened regarding the relationship between corrections and the city of Waupun.

First, pushing back against closing Waupun and calling attention to what WCI means to Waupun, both as our cultural heritage and economy worked. I have heard from several legislators who admitted they had no idea we cared about the prison so much. They didn't know it's the oldest prison in Wisconsin, that Waupun donated the land to bring it here, that we had generation after generation of people who worked there, that our churches had outreach to the inmates, that our first responders and local government leaders participate in training exercises with corrections staff for different scenarios, or that we have quarterly meetings with the wardens, the mayor, local residents and law enforcement. Many of them just didn't appreciate that WCI is a part of our community.

When former Governor Tommy Thompson visited Waupun back in October, he mentioned that he read and appreciated both my mayor's column and the op-ed I wrote for the Wisconsin State Journal, and was proud of Waupun for sticking up for itself and fighting to keep WCI operating. And honestly, I thought that was pretty cool!

Now that the new legislature is in place to take over in early January, and they'll begin work on the next state budget, it'll again be time to lobby for Waupun. We have had success in the past. Just as we've raised awareness to what WCI means to Waupun, back in my first term, we, along with other cities, successfully lobbied for an increase in state shared revenues. So, while this will be a big task, I think we're up for it.

My insider Madison friends tell me I should pivot from trying to keep WCI open, to trying to get the new prison built here in Waupun, because WCI is old... But so is the State Capitol building. So why is the Capitol in such great shape at 107 years of age? Because politicians like investing in their workplace. They like showing off to friends and family the cool, historic, and beautiful building they have the privilege to work in. No expense is too great. In the late 90's and early 2000's they went from wing to wing of the Capitol gutting it and rebuilding it, because the building means so much to them, and to Madison, and to Wisconsin, that it was worth it. And they were right to do so.

Also in Madison is the Department of Corrections Central Offices, a building the state massively over pays rent on, and maintains annually. They could build a new office building for what they're spending on that place, why don't they? Because they want to be in Madison.

So why not invest into WCI? The visitor center is already fairly new, the water plant is new (even though it's not working correctly) and the building isn't in bad shape because it's old, it's because the state wants a new one so bad, they haven't been maintaining it correctly.

Did you know in some areas, employees have to cover their computers when it rains because the roof leaks? Why doesn't the state fix the roof? The cell halls aren't as nice as many would like. Why not go one cell hall at a time, and rebuild or build new within the footprint of WCI?

WCI's deteriorating condition has been a choice. Just like they invested in the Capitol, they can choose to invest in WCI.

Will investing into WCI be cheap? No. But building a new prison will cost a billion dollars, and there are many cost effective ways to keep WCI functioning without having to shutter the building and build new. It can be a safer place for staff to work, and a nicer place for inmates to be housed, and WCI can continue its legacy for another century. We just need legislators to care about WCI as much as they care about Madison.

Lastly, the push to close Green Bay correctional is real, because the local government up there wants the land for economic development. To justify closing it, they keep bringing WCI into the discussion. I've stressed we're two different cities with different goals and different relationships with our respected prisons.

Saving Waupun in Waupun is worth fighting for, and I will be doing so this next year!

Thank you and God Bless,

Mayor Rohn

Holiday Waupun Aquatic Pool Pass Special

Get your 2025 Waupun Family Aquatic Center Christmas Pool Pass now through December 12, 2024. Holiday Rates: \$200 residential/\$250 non-residential family pass; \$100 residential/\$125 non-residential individual pass. The purchaser will be provided with a Waupun Family Aquatic Center Christmas Pool Pass Certificate in which the recipient will redeem at the aquatic center next year when the actual passes are being sold. The Family Pass (all members must reside at the same address) provides a maximum of 5 members - an additional 2 members can be added for \$10 each. A maximum of 7 members to a family pass. The Waupun Family Aquatic Center Christmas Pool Passes can be obtained (cash, check, charge) at City Hall (201 E Main Street, Waupun) in the City Clerk's Office Monday-Thursday 7:00am -4:00pm and Friday 7:00am-11:00am. For inquiries, please call 920-324-7900.

DECEMBER 12 – ADULT CRAFT NIGHT – CHRISTMAS DIAMOND ART – 6PM TO 7PM – Join us for a Christmas themed diamond art craft night. Six different styles, with everything you need provided! Held at the Waupun Public Library, 123 S Forest St.

DECEMBER 16 – WAUPUN COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE – 1PM TO 5:30PM – Make you appointment! Appointments are highly encouraged. Secure you spot by visiting tinyurl.com/ywvm4p9p. Don't forget your ID!

DECEMBER 14 – BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 2024

The Waupun Fire and Police Departments are hosting the 6th annual Breakfast with Santa event benefitting the Waupun Food Pantry. This event is sponsored by Fox Valley Savings Bank and The Rock Golf Club.

Breakfast will be buffet style, and available throughout the event. Come for great food, fun holiday activities and free pictures with our very own Santa! Write a letter to Santa and he will respond.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with Santa arriving around 9:45. The event will conclude at 11a.m.

Each non-perishable food donation gets you an entry to win a family pool pass (donated by the City of Waupun) for the 2025 season.

Tickets are available for \$10 for an adult and for ages 1 and up \$6. Infants <1yr old who will be on you lap are free. Get your tickets at Waupun City Hall with cash/credit card, at Fox Valley Savings Bank with cash, or cash at the Rock Golf Course. If having problems getting to one of our partners, please text Nate Schears at 920-602-2095 and we'll work something out.

COMMUNITY GARDEN QUESTIONS – Please call 920-324-4000 or 920-318-3335.

WAUPUN AREA VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL PROJECT: The Waupun Area Veterans Memorial Wall is located in Shaler Park and is a lasting tribute to all Waupun area veterans who have served or are now serving their country. Those veterans have served the country in times of war and peace from the War of 1812 up through present day. The project was started in 2004 and there are currently over 1214 veteran's names on the walls and more are added every year. For more information, or to have additional names added to the walls, call the project director at 920-324-4641. Application forms are also available at the National Exchange Bank & Trust in Waupun.

CITY HALL

Open 7:00am - 4:00pm, Monday-Thursday. Friday 7am – 11am. For assistance, call 920-324-7900.

CALL YOUR COMMON COUNCIL

Mayor Rohn Bishop 920-210-1063; District 1 – Jason Westphal, 920-210-5140, District 2 – Pete Kaczmarski, 920-324-2213; District 3 – Kambria Ledesma 309-709-0092; District 4 –Mike Matoushek 262-470-5975; District 5 – Dan Siebers 920-205-3065; District 6 – Bobbi Jo Kunz 920-392-9366.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Contact Susan Leahy 920-229-6360. City Hall hours: Monday's & Wednesday's 10:00am – 12:30pm.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Call Associated Appraisal Consultants 1-800-721-4157

SENIOR CENTER

301 E. Main Street, Waupun, WI 53963. Phone (920) 324-7930. Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 8:00am—4:00pm, Tuesdays, Fridays from 8:00am—2:00pm. Email: parks@cityofwaupun.org

WAUPUN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday-Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm. Sunday CLOSED. Curbside pick-up is available. 920-324-7925.

WAUPUN BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Tuesday from 8AM to 12PM. Thursday from 1PM to 5PM. Additional time can be made available for appointments and special projects. For any questions you can call the Waupun Business Alliance at 920-324-3491 Monday – Friday, 8AM to 5PM or you can email at info@envisiongreaterfdl.com. The Waupun Business Alliance is located at 10 W Main Street.

WAUPUN UTILITIES

Open Monday-Friday from 8AM to 4PM. For assistance, call 920-324-7920. An answering service is available to take your call outside of normal business hours.

WAUPUN TAXI

HOURS OF OPERATION: Waupun Taxi provides shared-ride taxi services in the City of Waupun. Hours are: Mon. – Thurs., 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri., 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., 9 p.m. – 2:30 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., 9 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. No Sunday service. Phone number is 324-2426..

PARK RESERVATIONS: If you are planning picnics, graduations, or family gatherings, you may wish to hold your event in one of our City park shelters. Park fees vary with each park. To reserve a park, call 324-7930. Leave a message if no one answers. For more information: <https://www.cityofwaupun.org/parksrec/page/parks-and-recreation-home>. Parks are scheduled to open April 1st, weather permitting. They close October 1st.

THE ELDERLY IN OUR COMMUNITY DESIRE YOUR HELP!

There is a significant need in and around Waupun for a variety of services for the elderly. Some of these services include house cleaning, moving/downsizing, lawn/landscaping services, home repairs, snow removal, technology help and more. To that end, the ONE Waupun ministry is organizing the ongoing efforts to connect those in need with those that are able to donate some of their time. We plan to start offering these services to the seniors in Waupun soon; however, we first need to generate a list of people that are willing to serve. Even if you can only help occasionally, it all helps. We need both men and women volunteers. Also, we realize that some of you may be reluctant to serve right now because of COVID, but please fill out this survey with the idea that this virus should be less of a concern in the coming months. To learn more about this service and to sign up as a volunteer, please go to www.onewaupun.com and click on the "Service" link at the top of the page.

WAUPUN DOG PARK (903 N. Madison St.): Waupun is pleased to offer an area for local dog owners to bring their dogs to run and play, as well as socialize with other dogs. It is open from sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week, year round. Please use the driveway entrance to the Waupun Area Animal Shelter. You may stop in at City Hall (201 E. Main Street) for an information guide that contains the rules and regulations.

WAUPUN ANIMAL SHELTER INC.: Hours: Monday 4PM to 7PM, Thursday 2PM to 6PM & Saturday by appointment only. 920-324-3200. Please visit our website www.waupunareanimalshelter.org to see all of the wonderful animals that we have available for adoption and a listing of our current needs.

WAUPUN AREA ANIMAL SHELTER SELLS BRICKS: The Shelter is selling bricks @ \$30.00. The 4 x 8 bricks will hold 3 lines (13 characters per line) and the icon of your choice. Order forms are available at the Animal Shelter. For questions, call the animal shelter at 920-324-3200.

HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM: Information on the Housing Grant Program can be obtained by calling MSA Professional Service, Beaver Dam, at 920-392-5142. Web Address: www.msa-ps.com

GLACIER RIDGE LANDFILL DUMP SITE: Glacier Ridge Landfill in Horicon has a dump site that is open Monday – Friday from 6:15 am to 4:30 pm. It is located at N7296 Cty Rd V, Horicon (off of Hwy 33). If you have questions you may call them at 920-387-0987.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SERVICE: ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SERVICE: Bargains Galore Thrift Store is an E-Cycle Wisconsin Registered Collector of electronics (computers, CPU's, copiers, phones, mice, keyboards, printers, scanners, fax machines, other electronics and/or any household items with a cord). Recycling Fees effective 10/22/18: TV's under 27" - \$20, TV's 27" & over - \$50, Consoles, Projections & Over 50" - \$75, Monitors - \$20, Microwaves - \$20, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washers & Dryers, etc. - \$20. Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners & Dehumidifiers are NOT accepted. (All other electronic recycling is free.) Drop-off hours: Thurs. 10–8, Fri. & Sat. 10–2. 810 W. Main St. Waupun. (920) 324-8677 or www.BargainsGaloreThriftStore.com