

A City of Waupun publication



"End of the Trail"

City Meetings & Events

2/17, 4:15pm – Library Board, Library

2/19, 4:45pm – Plan Commission, Council Chambers

2/24, 6:00pm – Recreation Board, Council Chambers

2/25, 5:30pm – Committee of the Whole, Council Chambers

3/11, 4:30pm – Board of Public Works, Council Chambers

3/11, 6:00pm – Common Council, Council Chambers

3/12, 7:00am – Business Improvement District, Council Chambers

3/18, 4:00pm – Community Development Authority, Council Chambers



View meeting agendas and minutes on the city website:

www.cityofwaupun.org

Community News is an E-newsletter capturing key events of the City of Waupun, and the various departments within the City. You can also find helpful information from the local schools, the Booster Club, Waupun Area Chamber of Commerce, and local service organizations and non-profits in special sections of *Community News*.

City Hall Happenings

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Waupun is celebrating its 175th Anniversary with many exciting events offered throughout the year. We are very grateful for the amazing individuals and organizations that give of their time during these activities by helping

out in various capacities, such as selling or collecting tickets, working at



the concession stand, and ushering, just to name a few.

If you'd like join the team of volunteers or learn more about the opportunities available please call City Hall at 324-7900. We'd love to hear from you!

AN EVENING OF CHOCOLATE & WINE



Next in the lineup of activities during the City's 175th Anniversary Celebration is An Evening of Chocolate & Wine.

The Agnesian HealthCare Foundation, along

with the Waupun Special Events Committee, is proud to sponsor this Chocolate and Wine tasting fund-raising event. Participants will have the opportunity to sample a variety of fine chocolates, assorted cheeses, and an hors d'oeuvres buffet. There will also be hand-selected wines

and specialty beers for sampling as well as entertainment, a silent auction and raffles. Proceeds from the event benefit women's health and breast care services at Waupun Memorial Hospital.

Please see the flyer following the newsletter for more details.

Service Organization On-Goings

Frank Mesa, Commander of Bentley-Hull VFW Post 6709, presents Fred Zurbuchen (on left) with a meritorious service award for all the extra duties he performs for the VFW post in Waupun.



Photo by Larry Duer

WAUPUN AREA EVENTS

Sundays through Mar. 9 – **Public Skating**, 4:30-6:45pm, Waupun Community Center

Feb. 15 (9 to noon), 18-20 (6-8pm) & 22 (9 to noon) – **Baseball & Softball Registration**, Sully's Sporting Goods

Feb. 15, 3:10pm – **"When Waupun Was" Radio Show**
Rebroadcast on FM103.3 / AM1170

Feb. 18, 6:00-7:00pm – **Lego at Your Library**

Feb. 19, 10:30am – **Storytime**, Library

Feb. 22, 2:00pm – **"GMO, What Do We Know" Presentation**, Library

Feb. 22, 6:30pm – **An Evening of Chocolate & Wine**, City Hall Auditorium

Feb. 27, 6:30pm – **Cultivating Wellness Series**, Library

Mar. 1, 6:30pm – **Fasching Festival featuring Blakapelle Milwaukee**, City Hall Auditorium

Visit the **Waupun Festivals website** for a full list of **Waupun Area Events!**

www.waupunfestivals.com

LIONS CLUB VEGAS FUN NIGHT BENEFITS WAUPUN FOOD PANTRY

Waupun Lion Doug Cronin presents Waupun Food Pantry Manager Terri Respalje with 250 pounds of food that was collected at the Waupun Lions annual Vegas Night fund raiser.

Participants in Vegas Night who brought in nonperishable items for the Food Pantry received \$150 of 'fun money' used to work

toward prizes at the event. The Lions and the Food Pantry wish to thank the participants who were so generous with their donations. This generosity is further enhanced because the Federal government will provide the Pantry with 250 pounds of commodities to match the amount contributed.



School District Dialogue

4K/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Find details on 4K/Kindergarten registration in a press release following the newsletter!



Mark Your Calendar!

- Feb. 14, 5:30-7:30pm – PTO Valentine's Dance, MVP Gym
- Feb. 15-16 – SAGES Chili Sale, Fish Tales Fishery
- Feb. 15 & 22, 9:00-noon – ACT Test Prep Class, Jr/Sr High
- Feb. 17 – NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 24, 6:30pm – Board of Education Business Mtg, ESC
- Feb. 28 – SCHOOL IN SESSION (Snow Make Up Day)





"Who Sows Believes In God"



Many of the photos and articles in Community News are submitted by service organizations, sports groups, or other individuals. Thank you for sharing your events and achievements with us! To submit information to be considered for a future newsletter, please email michelle@cityofwaupun.org

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Websites
www.cityofwaupun.org
www.waupunfestivals.com
www.waupunutilities.com
www.waupunchamber.com
www.waupun.k12.wi.us



Community Events & News

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Sully's Sporting Goods in Waupun is hosting 2014 baseball and softball registration. Stop by on the following dates and times to sign up:

- Sat. 2/15, 9:00-noon
- Tues. 2/18, 6-8pm
- Wed. 2/19, 6-8pm

- Thurs. 2/20, 6-8pm
 - Sat. 2/22, 9:00-noon
- Boys must be age 4 (as of April 30) through 14 years old. Girls entering 4K through 12th grade for fall 2014 school year are welcome to sign up. Softball forms are

available for download at waupunsoftball.com. Baseball forms are available for download at waupunlittleleaguebaseball.com. Please come to registration with all the forms filled out.

"DAY IN THE GARDEN" EVENT

The Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association hosts the 16th Annual "Day In The Garden" Event on Saturday, March 1 at UW Fond du Lac. Four speakers will discuss Garden Design, Birdscaping,

Ornamental Grass, and Floral Arrangements. Early-bird registration runs through February 14 and is \$35/person. After that, it's \$40/person. The event is from 8:00am-3:30pm and lunch is included. There will

also be vendors, a silent auction, raffles and door prizes. More information on the Day In The Garden and the Master Gardener's Annual Plant Sale can be found at the end of the newsletter.

MSB SERVES FREE BANANA SPLITS

Holli Koepsell, assistant head teller at the Waupun branch of the Markesan State Bank, offers a free banana split, on Wednesday, February 12, as a community

appreciation, an annual event held each year held prior to Valentine's Day. A tradition started 39 years ago in Markesan, this is the 7th year of service in Waupun.



Photo by Larry Duer

Learn about the "Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign"!

University of WI-Extension educators urge people to check their credit report to improve their financial health. See the press release following the newsletter.

UW-Extension website offers information on the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Details provided in a press release after the newsletter.



AN EVENING OF
**CHOCOLATE
& WINE**

JOIN US
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014
WAUPUN CITY HALL, 201 E. MAIN STREET
6:30 TO 10 P.M.

Enjoy chocolates and various hand-selected wines, specialty beers,
local cheeses and a bountiful hors d'oeuvre buffet for \$50 per person.

Entertainment provided by harpist Deborah Guy.

Silent auction.

Event proceeds to benefit Waupun Memorial Hospital
women's health and breast care services.

Dress is business casual.

To charge your reservation by phone or for more information, call (920) 926-4959.



WAUPUN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

4-year kindergarten registration

The Waupun Area School District is in the process of compiling the **4-year old** kindergarten list for the 2014-15 school year. To attend 4-year old kindergarten, students must be 4 years old by September 1st. If you have a child whose birth date is on or before September 1, 2010 you may pick up a registration packet after Feb. 3, 2014. Packets will be available at the following locations: Education Service Center, Meadow View Primary School, Rock River Intermediate School, SAGES, Alto Reformed Church, Waupun Preschool, and Wee Care. Packets will also be available on the district website. www.waupun.k12.wi.us



Scan to view our
website.

If you are unable to pick up a packet please contact Linda Meagher at the Education Service Center to have one mailed to you after Feb. 3, 2014. The phone number is 324-9341, extension 2117.

It is imperative that parents respond at this time. Planning is under way and this information is needed. The number of students registered will determine class size and allow ample time to order class material for students.

Kindergarten Registration for students not in 4K

The Waupun Area School District is in the process of compiling the kindergarten list for the 2014-15 school year. If you are a parent with a child whose birthday is on or before September 1, 2009 and **does not** attend 4-year old kindergarten, please contact the Education Service Center to register your child for kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. Students attending 4K will be moved up to kindergarten and do not need to register.

It is imperative that parents respond at this time. Planning is under way and this information is needed. The number of students registered will determine class size and allow ample time to order class material for students.

Please call Linda Meagher at the Education Service Center between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is 324-9341, extension 2117.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
UW Extension
Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners
920 929 3172

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16TH ANNUAL "DAY IN THE GARDEN" EVENT IS LOADED WITH COLOR AND DIVERSITY

Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Announces Presenters, Ticket Sales for March 1 Event

FOND DU LAC, Wis. (Feb 1, 2014) – While gardeners are waiting for Spring, Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association are bringing it to you early in the form of the 16th annual “Day In the Garden” event set for March 1, 2014 at the UW-Fond du Lac. It has a decidedly diverse theme with four speakers focusing on varying topics: Samantha Peckham, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wis. will discuss “Garden Design for Plantaholics”. This is the presentation for those who find it impossible to drive past a nursery without stopping to buy a plant or two or *ten*! Other speakers for the day include Scott Petznick, Mosquito Hill, New London, Wis., “Birdscaping - Landscaping & Plants to attract Birds. David Wright, from Northeast WI Tech College, is speaking on Ornamental Grasses. Haentze’s Floral, of Fond du Lac, will conduct a “Floral Arrangement Demonstration” which will include the sale of the arrangements.

Early-bird registration for “Day in the Garden” runs through February 14 and is \$35 per person. After that, it’s \$40 per person. The fee includes admission to Speakers as well as lunch and beverages. The event, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., also includes vendors, displaying garden items for sale, a Silent Auction, a Raffle with two handcrafted quilts, and door prizes. Registration deadline is February 20. The event is open to the public. Pick up a registration form at the UW-Fond du Lac Extension Office, 400 Campus Drive, Fond du Lac or download it at: <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu/day-in-the-garden/>.

The Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association Annual Plant Sale fundraiser will take place May 16 & 17, 2014 at the Fdl County Fairground’s, Cow Palace. Plant Sale proceeds support Fond du Lac County projects, youth education, and scholarships for area students pursuing secondary education in horticulture, botany, or landscape design.

Sponsors for the 2014 Day in the Garden event include Stuart's Landscaping, Fond du Lac County UW-Extension Cooperative, and UW-Fond du Lac.

About Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners

The Fond du Lac County Master Gardener Association is an all-volunteer service organization that assists the UW-Extension by helping people in the community better understand horticulture. Last year, members logged more than 5,198 volunteer hours maintaining gardens at area non-profit organizations and the UW-Fond du Lac Campus, assisting with youth education, and staffing the Horticulture Helpline through the UW-Extension. To be certified, members must first complete 36 hours in classroom study and pass a test; to remain certified they must log a set number of volunteer hours and continuing education hours each year.

For information on Master Gardener training and volunteer opportunities, log on to fonddulac.uwex.edu/hort/mg/ or call 920-929-3172.

Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners Association
UW-Extension, 400 University Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

NEWS RELEASE

Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

UW-Extension website provides information on Earned Income Tax Credit

Low and moderate-income workers in Wisconsin may be eligible for thousands of dollars of additional income at tax time. For many families, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), together with the state Earned Income Credit, can bring in anywhere from a few dollars to more than \$8,000, depending on household income and size. Both credits specifically target employed households, and are intended to supplement earnings from work. Workers can receive the credits even if their incomes are too low to pay any income taxes.

To help eligible households learn about the credits, UW-Extension has developed a website providing detailed information—including information on eligibility and benefits, links to tax forms, and more. The website, which can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/eitc/>, also provides resources for groups interested in helping to get the word out about the tax credits.

“Because many working families have wages that are not high enough to cover basic needs, these tax credits are a critical income source,” says Judith Bartfeld, UW-Extension food security research and policy specialist and professor at UW-Madison. “This additional income benefits not only the workers who receive it, but also the communities in which they live because much of the money goes right back into the local economy.”

Extension educators do not prepare taxes or provide tax advice, but they provide access to resources and information for Wisconsin residents.”

People qualify for the EITC based on earnings during 2013, and they must have at least some earnings from work to qualify. Incomes can be as high as \$46,227 for unmarried households and \$51,567 for married households. The specific income limits also depend on the number of children in the household, with the highest income cutoffs for households with three or more children.

The federal earned income credit ranges from a few dollars up to \$6,044. The Wisconsin credit is worth up to \$2,055--which working parents can receive in addition to the federal credit. Both credits are higher when there are more children in the household, with the largest credit for those with three or more children. The amount of the credits also depends on the amount of income; the credits decline in value as income approaches the cut-off.

To claim the federal credit, eligible people must file federal income tax returns and specifically claim the credit. Likewise, workers must file a Wisconsin tax return to receive the state credit. While some people are eligible for the tax credit in most years and are already familiar with how it works, others may be newly eligible –and more likely to miss out.

Those most likely to be eligible, yet not file a claim, include people with recent changes in circumstances, people in nontraditional families such as grandparents who are raising grandchildren, non-English speakers, and those whose income is too low to otherwise have to file tax returns.

The IRS estimates that up to one in five eligible workers fails to claim the credit, potentially foregoing thousands of dollars. Workers who are new to Wisconsin may be familiar with the federal credit, but might not know that a state credit is also available.

In addition to the federal and state EITC, there is also a state Homestead Credit. This is worth up to \$1,160, and is available to both renters and homeowners with incomes of less than \$24,680. The specific amount depends on income. The purpose of this credit is to offset the impact of rent and property taxes on low- and moderate-income households.

For individualized free help in filing taxes and claiming tax credits, taxpayers can visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Credit for the Elderly (TCE) site that provides service to low and middle-income tax filers.

To find a VITA site near you, visit <http://fyi.uwex.edu/eitc/vita-sites/>.

To find a TCE site near you, visit: <http://www.aarp.org/money/taxaide/>.

To help tax preparers determine your eligibility for the EITC, bring along as much of the following information as possible:

- Photo identification
- Valid Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents listed on the return
- Current year's tax package, if received
- Wage and earning statements—Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Form 1099)
- Copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
- Any other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total paid for day care
- Day care provider's identifying number

For more information, visit the IRS website at <http://www.eitc.irs.gov/central/main/>

Information provided by Shelley Tidemann, Fond du Lac County UWEX Family Living Educator. Above links available at: <http://fonddulac.uwex.edu>.

NEWS RELEASE

Shelley Tidemann, Family Living Educator

Fond du Lac County UW-Extension

'Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign' helps consumers monitor financial health

Much like efforts that encourage people to get a medical check-up or a flu shot, a campaign by University of Wisconsin-Extension educators urges people to check their credit report to improve their financial health.

The "Check Your Free Credit Report: 2/2, 6/6 10/10" campaign can make it easier for people to monitor their financial wellbeing. UW-Extension educators around the state including Shelley Tidemann, Fond du Lac County UWEX Family Living Educator, are reminding people to view their three free reports each year on Feb. 2, June 6 and Oct. 10.

Consumers are responsible for checking the accuracy of credit reports prepared by the private firms Equifax, Experian and TransUnion and sold to other businesses.

"2/2, 6/6, 10/10 are three easy days to remember to set aside just five minutes of your time to pull your credit report from one credit bureau," says J. Michael Collins, UW-Extension family and consumer economics specialist and director of the UW-Madison Center for Financial Security. "It is a simple way that you can remember to keep tabs on your credit report on a regular basis."

The campaign's website at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/creditreport> provides information on the "Check Your Free Credit Report Campaign: 2/2,6/6, 10/10." The site offers information on why it is important to check your credit report and can walk consumers through the process of pulling and reading the reports.

The information found in your credit report can play a role in whether you're offered a job or eligible for a loan. But in spite of credit reports' importance, only about 16 million free reports are ordered each year out of more than 200 million people in the U.S. with credit records. In Wisconsin, only about four out of ten Wisconsin residents check their credit reports on a yearly basis (<http://www.usfinancialcapability.org/>).

The credit reporting site offers an under-utilized free service that can save people money, time and financial stress. A lot of mistakes on credit reports can be caught early by checking your credit report every four months

Credit reports are different from credit scores, Collins explains. "Although a credit score is a useful piece of information, it is calculated using the information in your credit report."

Tidemann notes that there is only one legitimate source for a free credit report, and there are many imposters.

“AnnualCreditReport.com (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/>) and its mailing address and phone number are the only truly no-cost ways to obtain the free credit reports everybody is entitled to by law,” says Tidemann.

Other websites claim to offer free reports, scores or monitoring, but they often incur significant one-time or ongoing fees. Unsolicited e-mails, pop-ups or phone calls offering free scores or reports are not official.

Checking one free credit report every four months lets people do their own credit monitoring without having to pay up to \$10 or even \$20 a month--typical amounts charged for these services.

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