



Winter 2024

BOARD MEETINGS

4:00 pm

(Meetings are held in the Autumn Manor Community Room and online via Zoom.)

January 24, 2024

February 28, 2024

March 27, 2024

CLOSURES

President's Day—

Feb. 19, 2024

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday

8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Friday—Closed to the Public

Something to **THINK** About...

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one, directly affects all indirectly.” -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Housing Authorities of the City of Washburn & County of Bayfield

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Foundation Grant 2023 Housing Grant Program Awards Announced

In December, WHEDA announced that 53 organizations will receive \$2 million in grants from the WHEDA Foundation to improve emergency shelter, transitional residences, and extremely low-income housing.

WHEDA received 96 applications requesting more than \$3.8 million through the housing grant process this year, an indication of the high demand and need in Wisconsin. Providers in 27 counties received awards ranging from \$9,200 to \$50,000, the maximum award available.

We are excited to announce that both the Bayfield County and the City of Washburn Housing Authorities have been awarded grants. The Bayfield County Housing Authority received \$50,000 to repair a roof on one of the properties in Bayfield. The City of Washburn Housing Authority received \$34,100 to update heating issues in one of the Washburn properties. The Housing Authority expects that work will be completed within the 2024 calendar year.

Baseboard Heat Reminders

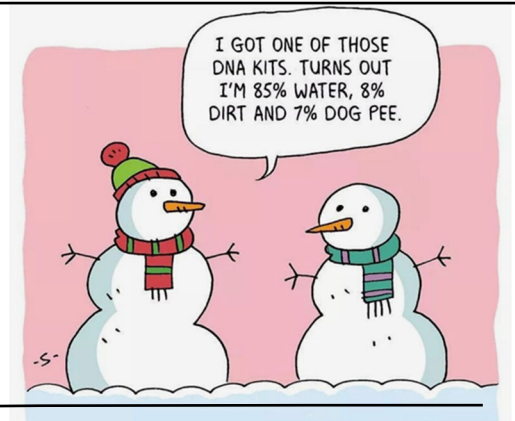
Allow Air to Flow

To function properly, a baseboard heater needs space for air to flow. Though they don't directly need air to operate, baseboard heaters release the warmth into the cool air surrounding them, thereby heating the entire room. A blocked baseboard heater is both a safety hazard and a drain on the heater's efficiency since it won't be able to heat the room as effectively as if it weren't blocked.

Avoid Placing Furniture or Fabrics Next to Heaters

An object blocking a heater not only prevents heat from circulating throughout the room but also poses a serious safety hazard. Baseboard heaters typically need at least 12 inches of space in front of the heater. Though it's rare, a piece of furniture, set of curtains, or similar object that has prolonged contact with baseboard heaters while they're running is at risk of catching fire. Better to make sure the baseboard heaters are clear of any obstructions.

First-time home buyer class.
More information to follow.



Humor

1. Why did Dad stop using his loyalty card to scrape ice from his windshield?
2. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?
3. What's an igloo?

Requesting 2023 Rent Certificates for Taxes

The Homestead Credit is a state of Wisconsin tax benefit for renters with low or moderate incomes.

Please contact our office to request a Rent Certificate.



2023 Social Security Award Letters

These usually come out in December. Be sure to send a copy to the Housing Authority office upon receipt.

Household Composition Changes

As per your lease, guests may visit for no more than a combined fourteen (14) days and/or nights within a twelve (12) month period. This means that no individual may stay at your home more than a total of 14 days or nights within one year. Any guests staying longer must pass our application process to be approved to stay on our property. You **MUST** first receive Housing Authority approval before you move anyone into your unit.

There are **Household Composition Change** packets required for removing or adding members to the household. Please note that completing a **Household Composition Change** packet does not give you the authorization to allow anyone to move into your household. New members must go through and pass this application process **before** moving into your unit.

If you have any income or household changes, please contact our Occupancy Specialist – Molly Vail (715-373-2653 ext. 11).

Winter Snow Removal

Please cooperate with maintenance to allow for plowing of the parking lots. Due to the number of buildings to plow, they may not get to your building right away. Keep salt and a shovel on hand outside your unit. As a reminder, this is the time of year we experience fluctuation in temperatures, which means melting and freezing, so there may be a slippery spot here, but not there. Please use caution when walking on sidewalks and in parking lots.

The following guidelines apply to all units for snow removal procedures when we receive over 2 inches of snow:

- Your vehicle must be moved out of the parking lot no later than the time posted. If you are unable to move your vehicle yourself, please make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to move it for you. Staff cannot move vehicles.
- Please be advised that the Office will not call tenants to move their vehicles.
- Our maintenance workers will not plow between parked cars. If you do not move your vehicle, it may be “plowed in.”
- Snow will be removed from main sidewalks only and on driveways leading into and out of parking lots.
- Do not move your vehicle back into the parking lot until after your lot has been plowed.
- Tenants will be charged a fee of \$25.00 each time their vehicle is not moved by the posted time.

Thank you for your cooperation!

HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTACT INFORMATION

WORK ORDERS: 715-373-2653

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES (DO NOT TEXT): 715-209-4505

Executive Director
Jennifer Toribio-Warren,
ext 12

Accountant/Office Manager
Barbara Riley, ext 10

Occupancy Specialist
Molly Vail, ext 11

Administrative Assistant
Mary, ext 13

Humor Answers: 1. He only got 10% off. 2. Lost 3. A snow house without a loo!

Why is it Called 'Leap' Year? Fun Facts About Leap Day

<https://www.syracuse.com/news/2016/02/>

[why_do_we_call_it_leap_year_fun_facts_to_make_you_smarter_on_leap_day_video.html](https://www.syracuse.com/news/2016/02/why_do_we_call_it_leap_year_fun_facts_to_make_you_smarter_on_leap_day_video.html)

<https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/science-leap-year#:~:text=And%20why%20is%20it%20called,%E2%80%9Cleaps%E2%80%9D%20over%20a%20day.>



Every four years we add an extra day to our shortest month and call it a leap year. But why? What would happen if we didn't add that extra day? And what exactly are we leaping toward?

We found the answers so you can impress your friends at your quadrennial Leap Day party. You are having one, right?

Why do we have leap years? The earth revolves around the sun every 365 days and six hours, which means we accumulate an extra day every four years. If we didn't add that day to our calendars, they'd get out of whack with the seasons, and at some point we'd be Christmas shopping in June.

It's more complicated than every four years, isn't it? Uhm, yes. That extra six hours a year is actually 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. Big deal, right? That's only a difference of 11 minutes and 14 seconds, but even that would be enough to eventually mess with the calendars. To correct that, we don't add a leap day in years that are divisible by 100 but not by 400. So 2000 was a leap year, but 1700, 1800 and 1900 weren't. And 2100 won't be.

Whose idea was a leap year? Cultures across time whose calendars relied on the sun, moon or both have devised different methods to keep their festivals and planting schedules in line with the seasons. Some cultures tossed in an extra month or week when needed. Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. had the bright idea of just adding a day every fourth year. (His other contribution to the calendar was naming a month after himself: July.)

And why is it called "leap year?" Well, a common year is 52 weeks and 1 day long. That means that if your birthday were to occur on a Monday one year, the next year it should occur on a Tuesday. However, the addition of an extra day during a leap year means that your birthday now "leaps" over a day. Instead of your birthday occurring on a Tuesday as it would following a common year, during a leap year, your birthday "leaps" over Tuesday and will now occur on a Wednesday.

Thanks to leap year, our seasons will always occur when we expect them to occur, and our calendar year will match the Earth's sidereal year.

Get Free Tax Prep Help

(For most people, **April 18** is the last day to file a 2023 tax return.)



IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency - Ashland VITA
623 2nd Avenue East
Volunteer Prepared and Self-Prep
Ashland, WI 54806

**For an appointment call:
715-292-6400**

WASHBURN TAX-AIDE 2023 TAX SEASON

Free tax preparation offered by AARP, IRS, & Wisconsin Department of Revenue. All tax returns will be completed at the Bayfield County Courthouse.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

Taxpayers must pick up an envelope containing paperwork that needs to be completed before an appointment can be made. Instructions for making an appointment are included in the packet.

Taxpayers can pick up the required envelope at the following locations beginning January 10:

*Bayfield County Courthouse

117 E 5th Street Washburn
8:00-4:00 Monday – Friday

NOTICE: Packets will be available in the entrance. No staff or volunteers are on site to answer questions or provide service. Look for the Tax-Aide signage.

*Ashland, Bayfield, Cable, and Iron River Libraries.

*Town of Bell Town Hall-Cornucopia.

Fraud & Scams

Scams are all around us, and the number of cases reported to law enforcement is growing. Scams come to us in several ways including by mail, phone, email, internet, and in person. Many of the scams are international and leave the victim with little or no recourse for recovering lost funds. Educate yourself and refuse to be a victim.

Keep these things in mind:

- If it sounds too good to be true...it probably is.
- If you are notified you won a lottery or sweepstakes you did not enter...you didn't.
- If the brother you did not know you had left you money...he didn't.
- If your grandson calls you and says he needs you to send money immediately...it's not him (even if he says his name and it sounds like his voice).
- If you get a message saying your computer is locked or has been hacked...it hasn't.
- If you are asked to send funds a certain way such as Western Union, gift card, or prepaid debit card...don't send it.
- If you are being rushed to make a decision...don't make a decision. Contact a trusted family member or friend first.
- Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, or even at your front door. This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate, and Social Security/Social Insurance numbers.
- Always insist on taking your time. Con artists and scammers can be very charming and nice. Often, they will use this to rush people into making a deal. Get the details in writing. If you are uncomfortable with the deal, talk to a trusted family member or friend before you give any financial information to a stranger.

The most important thing to remember about scams is that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It is okay to be skeptical. Do not be embarrassed to ask for help or advice on matters related to your money. And do not be embarrassed if you have been scammed. Report the event to your local law enforcement or to consumer protection.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

ADRC is a no-cost, single point of contact for information and assistance related to aging or adults living with a disability. ADRCs assist individuals age 60+ as well as adults with disabilities regardless of income. Services are also available to family members, friends, caregivers and professionals working with these populations.

ADRC can help you sort through options available and make informed decisions about:

- Maintaining your independence
- Choices for long-term care and related services
- Medicare and other health-related benefits
- Social Security benefits
- Support services and resources in your community including but not limited to:
 - ◊ Housekeeping and chore services.
 - ◊ In-home personal care and nursing.
 - ◊ Long-term care programs such as Family Care and IRIS.
 - ◊ Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security.
 - ◊ Safety updates to the home.
 - ◊ Transportation.
 - ◊ Wellness programs.



Aging Office Contact for Bayfield County

Carrie Linder, Aging and Disability Services Manager
 Bayfield County Department of Human Services
 117 East 5th St.; PO Box 100; Washburn, WI 54891
 Phone: 715-373-6144; Toll-free: 866-663-3607