

# LET'S LEVEL

*the Official Publication of the Wausau Area Builders Association*

2015 SPRING

parade  
OF HOMES

JUNE  
2-7

*details inside*

**MAY 2015**

**VOLUME 34 - ISSUE 5**

**NIC PAPPAGORGIO**  
magic show

**JOIN THE FUN AT OUR  
MONTHLY DINNER MEETING  
MAY 21, 2015  
AT THE ELKS LODGE**



**MAGIC 6:30-7:30**

**COCKTAIL AT 6:00** *Complimentary bull falls/cash bar*

**DINNER AT 7:00** *Chicken and Stuffed Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes with gravy, Blended Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Dinner Rolls and Ice Cream for Dessert*

**MEETING AT 8:00**

Please note: If you are unable to attend after replying, we need 24 hours advance notice. All members and guests that are "no shows" will be invoiced \$15.00 per person.

*foundation of*  
**KNOWLEDGE**

*details inside*

**SESSION 2**



801 South 24th Ave.  
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Phone (715) 842-9510  
[www.WausauAreaBuilders.com](http://www.WausauAreaBuilders.com)

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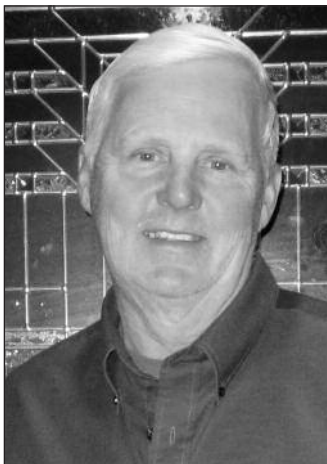
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#### MISSION STATEMENT:

*The Wausau Area Builders Association, chartered in 1967 and affiliated with the Wisconsin Builders Association and National Association of Home Builders, is a professional non-profit trade association. Serving the community we represent the interests and concerns of the consumer, building trades, industry suppliers and all facets of the building industry.*

*The primary goal of our association is to provide quality, affordable housing through community and government involvement, while promoting high standards of professionalism.*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The April dinner meeting was a great time and we got really close to our goal for the state contribution to the pac fund.

Thanks to Howard Freeman from Macco flooring and his crew for the work they put in gathering all the items for the auction.

I want to thank everyone who donated and for everyone that purchased the items. I came home with some nice items and also left a good donation.

Alex put on another Foundation of Knowledge meeting with the DOT session

and it went over really big. There were 48 that attended who learned all the information that may save them for big fines. Alex is working on more sessions with information to follow.

Summer is on the way. Load limits are just about done for another year and I hope everyone is as busy as they want to be.

See you at the May meeting and the summer ball game.

# JOKES OF THE MONTH



A young man was walking through a supermarket to pick up a few things when he noticed an old lady following him around. Thinking nothing of it, he ignored her and continued on. Finally he went to the checkout line, but she got in front of him. "Pardon me," she said, "I'm sorry if my staring at you has made you feel uncomfortable. It's just that you look just like my son, who just died recently." "I'm very sorry," replied the young man, "is there anything I can do for you?" "Yes," she said, "As I'm leaving, can you say 'Good bye, Mother'? It would make me feel so much better." "Sure," answered the young man.

As the old woman was leaving, he called out, "Goodbye, Mother!" As he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was \$127.50. "How can that be?" He asked, "I only purchased a few things!" "Your mother said that you would pay for her," said the clerk.

# MEMBER INFORMATION

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## REI ENGINEERING SHARES 100 BOOKS TO RECOGNIZE EARTH DAY

In recognition of Earth Day, REI Engineering, Inc. (REI) is distributing books to Marathon County area students. REI is giving away 100 books to classrooms in the community to encourage students to Read, Educate, and Ignite action to help in sustaining our environment. To accomplish this goal, REI is asking its team members to deliver books to classrooms/school libraries in the community. Students at schools including Newman Catholic Schools, Riverside Elementary School, Rothschild Elementary, Athens High School, Marathon Area Elementary School, Rosholt Elementary School, Mosinee Schools, Trinity Lutheran School and local daycares will benefit from receiving REI's gift.

"Small gestures can make a large impact," says REI president Jeny Nieuwenhuis. "The books we are sharing with local students are a token to open up the conversation about Earth Day. Earth Day doesn't have to be about solving environmental crises, but it can serve as a reminder that we can make practical adjustments that have a greater impact on the shaping of our community."

Earth Day is a worldwide rally for environmental protection. Every department at REI including survey, civil engineering, civil construction and environmental has an impact on the shaping and development of the environment. Because REI strives to be cognizant of the impact it has on the community, it supports Earth Day and the environmental protection it stands for. Distributing books to local students is a fun activity to education students about the importance of taking care of the environment.



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## DINNER OFFER



The WABA is now  
allowing you, the member, to

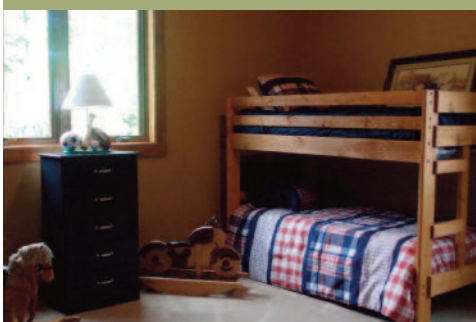
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This offer pertains to the regular dinner meetings with the exception of the Christmas Party and summer picnic.

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SEE THE LIST OF HOMES IN THIS NEWSLETTER!



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to View

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THURS. & FRI. 12pm - 9pm  
SAT. & SUN. 11am - 5pm  
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## HOME 1

### **DENYON HOMES**

**Address:** 4502 Estate Dr., Weston

*Directions:* Take Hwy. 29 to Camp Phillips Rd., Hwy. X approx. 1.2 miles to right on Ross Avenue approx. 1.6 miles to right on River Bend Road to left on N. Apache Dr. to left on Estate Drive. Home is located at the end of the road on the left.

## HOME 2

### **PRIME DESIGN**

**Address:** 1316 Bent Stick Dr., Wausau

*Directions:* From home number 1, take Ross Avenue West to North on Camp Phillips Rd./Hwy. X approx. 2.4 miles to left on Hwy. N/Townline Rd. 0.6 miles to left on Green Vistas Dr. to left on Bent Stick Dr. Home is on the right side of the road.

## HOME 3

### **DENYON HOMES**

**Address:** 5702 Fieldcrest Ln., Weston

*Directions:* From home number 2, take Camp Phillips Rd./Hwy. X to East on Schofield Ave./Hwy. JJ in Weston 2 miles to left (North) on Hunt St. to left on Callon Ave. to right on Fieldcrest Ln. Home is located at the end of Fieldcrest Ln on the Cul-de-sac.

## HOME 4

### **KOLBY CONSTRUCTION LLC**

**Address:** 1970 Nancy's Way, Mosinee

*Directions:* From home number 3, take Hwy. 29 to I-39 South 12 miles to right (West) on Hwy. 34 South 2 miles to left (East) on Dubai Dr. 1 mile to right on Hidden Ponds Dr. to right on Nancy's Way. Home is on the right side of the road.

## HOME 5

### **SORENSEN CONSTRUCTION LLC**

**Address:** 400 Rimrock Rd., Wausau

*Directions:* From home number 4, take I-39 to left (West) on Hwy. 52 (exit 192) to right (West) on Stewart Ave. 1.6 miles to right on S. 56th Ave. to left on Lombardy Dr. to right on 58th Ave. to left (West) on Bluestone Dr. to left (South) on Rimrock Rd. Home is on the right side of road.

## HOME 6

### TIMBER RIVER CUSTOM HOMES & DESIGN

**Address:** 204 S. 68th Ave., Wausau

**Directions:** From home number 5, take Stewart Ave. west to right (North) on 72nd Ave. 0.3 miles to right on Highland Dr. to left on S. 68th Ave. Home is at the end of the road on the left.

## HOME 7

### TRIM CRAFTERS

**Address:** 1312 S. State Hwy. 107, Marathon

**Directions:** From home number 6, take 72nd Ave. to Hwy. 29 West to Marathon City to South (left) on Hwy. 107 (exit 156) 1.6 miles. Home is at the top of the hill on the left hand side after Marathon City Sports Center.

## HOME 8

### JEREMY VOIGT CONSTRUCTION CO.

**Address:** 4890 County Road U, Wausau

**Directions:** From home number 7, take Hwy. 29 to North on I-39 to left on Hwy. U (exit 194) approx. 2 miles. Home is on North (right) side of U.

## HOME 9

### ROYALTY CUSTOM HOMES

**Address:** 1001 Heritage Court, Merrill

**Directions:** From home number 8, take I-39 North to right on Hwy. 64 (exit 208 in Merrill) to left on Hwy. 17 North 1 mile to left on 14th St. Hwy. G to left on Johnson St. to right on Semling Dr to left on Heritage Court. Home is located at the end of the road.



## NAHB REACHES MILLIONS IN USA TODAY HOME

NAHB is pleased to report that we recently conducted brand marketing in the USA Today Home Guide. The USA Today Home Guide ad focuses attention on local homeownership opportunities and will be seen by millions of home owners.

Using Internet Explorer or Chrome you can download a free digital copy of the USA Today Home magazine. Use the link below: <http://ee.usatoday.com/emag/Default.aspx?href=USAM/2015/03/24&pageno=1&view=document>

In addition to the NAHB ad, be sure to read the feature story highlighting The New American Home from this year's International Builders' Show.

This initiative grew out of your feedback at IBS that NAHB needed to be more aggressive in promoting its brand to the public. We took those comments very seriously, and found an

opportunity to broadly showcase our image and the value of homeownership.

Thank you for your constructive feedback, and we will let you know what response the ad generates.

If you have any questions, please contact Lakisha Woods, NAHB's Chief Marketing Officer, at 800-368-5242, ext. 8221.

# MAY

# 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	6 Membership Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm	7 Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 MAY Membership Renewals Due	19 BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	20	21 Membership Dinner	22 ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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# JUNE

# 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> POH Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm Home Show Committee Meeting - 4:00 pm	<b>3</b> Membership Committee Meeting at 4:30 pm	<b>4</b> Board Packets Sent - 5:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> MAY Membership Renewals Due	<b>16</b> BOARD MEETING - 4 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER DUE	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

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# THE MONDAY MORNING REVIEW



## **WBA supported bills introduced**

Recently two bill drafts supported by WBA were introduced as Assembly Bills 110 and 111 and were referred to the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate.

Assembly Bill 110 (AB 110) will rename the Dwelling Code Council the Uniform Dwelling Code Council and the Building Code Council the Commercial Building Code Council. AB 110

has bipartisan support with eleven assembly authors and four senate authors.

Assembly Bill 111 (AB 111) will require an inspection of any renovation of a one or two family dwelling that exceeds 20% of the assessed value of the home. AB 111 has seven co-authors in the assembly and four senate authors.

The strong showing of co-authors for these two bills is a product of members talking to their legislators in person during Business Day in Madison 2015 and also those that “spoke” to members of the legislature electronically via the VoterVoice system.

Public hearings on both of these bills are likely during the next month. We expect AB 110 to move quickly and we expect some groups/individuals may have ideas to improve AB 111 that will be taken into consideration.

## **Voter ID finally law, in effect after Spring General Election**

Recently the United States Supreme Court announced they would not hear a challenge to Wisconsin’s voter identification law which paves the way for the law to once again be in effect but after the April General Election. The law was in effect for one spring election in 2012 before legal challenges blocked it from being used in all elections since that time.

Soon after the announcement by the Supreme Court, both officials from the Government Accountability Board (GAB) and Attorney General Brad Schimel quickly stated that the law would not go into effect until after the April 7, 2015 Spring General Election. AG Schimel stated, “Absentee ballots are already in the hands of voters, therefore, the law cannot be implemented for the April 7 election. The Voter ID law will be in place for future elections – this decision is final.”

The court’s decision triggered a mixed reaction depending on what side of the aisle an elected official was on. While this issue receives support in public polling from those that identify as Republicans and Democrats, there is only support in the legislature from the GOP with Democrats strongly opposing the law.

An example of the reaction from the left was freshman State Representative Lisa Subeck from Madison stating, “Wisconsin’s

Voter I.D. law is nothing more than a mean-spirited attempt by Republicans to keep those least favorable to their own candidates away from the polls.”

One of the many Republican legislators responding to the decision was State Senator Leah Vukmir of Wauwatosa who released a statement saying, “It’s been nearly 4 years since Governor Walker signed the bill. Wisconsin voters can now be confident their voices will be heard and that ballots will be legally cast in future elections.”

With legal options now exhausted, Wisconsin’s law will be in effect if there is a need for a special election to fill a vacancy for the state senate or state assembly.

## **Progress on Amish building code issue**

Over the past few years there have been, and continue to be, some high profile disagreements between some in the Amish community in Eau Claire county and challenges they have faced when building homes and their religious objection to some items in the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC). Most of the time, the requirements that get the most attention are those dealing with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

In order to have a constructive conversation and to find a process that would narrowly address this issue, research was recently done using a state statute from Pennsylvania and some code language from Kentucky as a guide. Language from those two states, with slight changes, have been submitted to the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to be drafted as a provision in Wisconsin. This language could then be introduced as a bill or inserted in the Wisconsin State Budget.

The WBA Executive Committee recently discussed this issue and supported sharing the language below as an alternative to proposals that had been introduced last session. Recently, this outline was shared with State Representative Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) during a productive meeting on this issue.

Please draft a bill that would allow a person to request and receive, from DSPS, temporary waiver from provisions of the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) that conflict with BOTH the person’s own religious beliefs AND an established tenant or teaching of a recognized religious sect of which the person is a member. Require an applicant for such a waiver to provide an affidavit with his or her application that contains all of the following with respect to the requirement(s) of the UDC from which the applicant seeks a waiver:

- A statement as to the manner in which the requirement conflicts with the applicant’s religious beliefs and the established tenants or teachings of the recognized religious sect of which the person is a member
- A statement that the applicant is a member of the religious sect.
- A statement that the applicant adheres to the established tenants or teachings of the sect.

- A statement that the dwelling unit will be used solely as a residence for the applicant and the applicant's household.
- A statement that demonstrates that the tenant or teaching of the sect which conflicts with the provision(s) of the UDC for which a temporary waiver has been requested has been long-held by the sect and was not created in response to the construction project for the dwelling for which the waiver is being requested.

A statement that the dwelling unit will not be transferred to or leased to another person unless the dwelling is modified to comply with the provision(s) of the UDC for which any temporary waiver has been issued, or the person to whom the dwelling unit is to be leased or transferred obtains a temporary waiver from the provisions of the UDC from DSPS for the person's own use of the dwelling.

A statement that the applicant understands that the dwelling unit may not be occupied by another person to whom the dwelling is transferred upon the death of the applicant unless the dwelling is modified to comply with the provision(s) of the UDC for which any temporary waiver has been issued, or the person to whom the dwelling unit is bequeathed obtains a temporary waiver from the provisions of the UDC from DSPS for the person's own use of the dwelling.

A statement that the applicant will cease to occupy the dwelling unit until it is modified to comply with the provision(s) of the UDC for which any temporary waiver has been issued if the applicant ceases to hold the personal religious beliefs upon which the temporary waiver was granted.

DSPS shall issue a temporary waiver from any requirement of the UDC for which a request for waiver is received if it finds all of the following:

- The requirements above have been met.
- The waiver is requested for a requirement of an electrical provision or a plumbing provision of the Uniform Dwelling Code.
- The waiver is not being requested solely for economic, aesthetic or convenience reasons.
- The waiver would not create an unreasonable risk of harm to the health and safety of the general public.
- A waiver under this bill only applies to a dwelling during the term that the applicant and the applicant's household occupy the dwelling and the applicant continues to hold the personal religious beliefs upon which the temporary waiver was granted.

#### **BUILD PAC dinner to move to Fall 2015**

You may recall that in May of 2014 a dinner featuring Congressman Reid Ribble and U.S. Senator Ron Johnson was held in Kohler to help raise funds for NAHB's BUILD PAC. The event raised in the neighborhood of \$20,000 and attracted several new members who paid \$1000 to be part of the NAHB Gold Key Club.

After consulting with the Wisconsin BUILD PAC Trustees, it was determined that we would again be holding some type of dinner event to raise dollars for NAHB's BUILD PAC, but we would hold the event in the fall of 2015.

We are researching venues and guest speakers and will report back to you sometime this summer with details of the event.

We look forward to another successful BUILD PAC fundraiser this fall!

#### **Campground bill introduced, hearing held**

Recently a bill that would call for the Dwelling Code Council to work with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to establish a separate building code for campground structures was introduced as Assembly Bill 121 (AB 121) and Senate Bill 94 (SB 94).

The Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate held a public hearing on AB 121 on April 2 and the Senate Committee on Labor and Government Reform held a hearing on the senate version, SB 94 on April 9.

These bills are a product of meetings over the summer of 2014 with the bill's lead author, Representative Keith Ripp (R-Lodi), representatives from the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) and campground owners. These meeting took place to find a better way to address building issues campground owners were having with structures on certified campgrounds as opposed to just making wide exemptions to the Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC).

AB 121 and SB 94, if passed, would charge DSPS to work with not only the Dwelling Code Council but also the advisory council on private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). Two groups representing plumbers have asked that their code council also be added to the list of groups that review the code and that is being considered by the bill authors as an amendment.

*continued on page 12*



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Representative Ripp and the lead senate author, Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), are hoping to move these bills in the April floor period and have the Governor quickly sign the bills so DSPS and the code councils could begin working on a new code.

### Update on efforts to check builder credentials

An item that was approved by the WBA Board of Directors as part of the 2015-2016 Advocacy Agenda was a provision to ensure that municipalities were in compliance with checking the credential of every builder who pulls a building permit. WBA members have reported issues with some municipalities issuing permits to contractors who do not have a valid DSPS credential.

We have been working with Representative John Jagler (also the Assembly Housing and Real Estate Chair) and Senator Roger Roth on a bill that would require municipalities to issue a report each year to DSPS showing what companies pulled a permit, their DSPS number and when the credential expires. We have struggled on providing some "teeth" to the bill to make sure municipalities comply.

Recently it was suggested that we add a provision that states if a muni does not provide DSPS with the building permit report within 30 business days of being notified that they have not submitted the report that they would be required to return the amount they keep of each building permit fee to the contractor who pulled the permit.

We are in the process of having this provision inserted into the bill draft and will then work on a roll out strategy to move forward.

### Former WBA Legislator of the Year gets a new job

The spring elections came and went on recently with voters signing off on a constitutional amendment that will allow the Wisconsin Supreme Court to choose the Chief Justice as opposed to the current determination done by seniority. Current Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, as predicted, also cruised to re-election to another 10 year term as well on Tuesday.

The voters of Waukesha County overwhelming voted to make current State Senator and 2014 WBA Legislator of the Year Paul Farrow (an honor he shared with Representative John Jagler as well) to become their next County Executive.

Since his election to the State Assembly in 2010, Farrow has moved quickly through the political ranks when he won a GOP primary for State Senate in 2012 (no general election opponent for the general election) and now with his election to Waukesha County Executive.

Senator Farrow has stated he will retain his state senate seat until after the passage of the state budget.

Farrow has been a strong ally for sound housing policies in Wisconsin and will be greatly missed as an invaluable member of the state senate but we wish him continued success in his new position of county executive.

Brad Boycks

WBA Director of Government and Political Affairs

Wisconsin Builders Association@bboycks@wisbuild.org

(608) 242-5151 ext.16

Visit our web site: [www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org)

# GOLF OUTING

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015**

**Pine Valley Golf Course**

**18 Holes w/cart**

**Beverage Tickets • Evening Meal**

**Goody Bags • Raffle Prizes**

**1 pm Shotgun Start**

**\$75 PP/Builders \$50 PP**

**Please watch your inbox for online invitation**

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## COMMITTEES UPDATES

### EVENTS

Get Ready Members for a Beautiful Event! Our May Dinner Meeting will be held @ The Elk's on Thursday May 21st! I will

have complimentary beer setup for you @ 6:00 PM (Cash Bar / Cocktails) and @ 7 PM a "VERY TASTY" sit down dinner...along with dessert..."Just for You!!" Our entertainment will be the very

talented "Nic Pappagorgio Magician!!" Don't miss it!! Make sure to look for for your reply invitation coming soon!! Director/ Chair of Events, Gloria J. Fenhaus

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\* Calculated based on average projected energy savings in a computer simulation using Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory ResNet 5.0 standard criteria for a 2,000-square-foot home when comparing a Pella 350 Series Advanced Low-E with argon triple-pane vinyl window to a single-pane vinyl window. © 2011 Pella Corporation



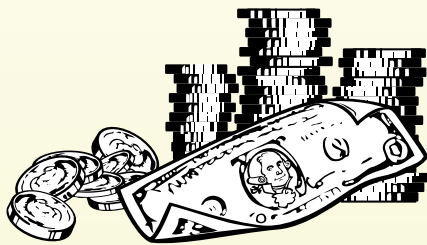
Watch Your Inbox for  
Online Registration

# *Foundation of* **KNOWLEDGE**

**MAY 21ST - 4:30 PM**

**ELK'S CLUB - WAUSAU**

**COST: COMPLIMENTARY**



## **LEARN HOW TO COLLECT YOUR MONEY**

*Every business needs to make sure customers pay. Some businesses are better than others in collecting money. If you want to be part of a business that is better at collecting its money, you will want to attend the next Foundation of Knowledge presentation. Attorney Sarah Ruffi will share some tips on how to improve your collection process. Attorney Ruffi will cover the following topics:*

- *Important items to include in your contracts*
- *The basics of Wisconsin Construction Lien Law*
- *Implementing a sound and effective collection procedure*

# PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE WAUSAU WARMING SHELTER



*Barb Sugden (left) coordinator of the Wausau Warming Shelter receives \$400 in gift cards from Tony Sorensen (right) of the Wausau Area Builders Association. The money was raised from February's dinner meeting. Though the warming shelter's night shift ends April 30, the need for funds is still a must to continue to help our community again next year.*

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