

DATE: October 2, 2018

TO: Manawa Community Members

RE: UPDATE on the Proposed Closure of Manawa Congregate Meal site (Senior Meals on Wheels) since Community Input Meeting September 17, 2018

FROM: Dr. Janet Reilly, Waupaca County Nutrition Advisory Council volunteer member

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Thank you for attending the Community Input Meeting about the future of the Manawa Senior Meal site and program that was held September 18, 2018 at the Manawa City Hall. While county funding has been approved to keep the site open in Manawa through 2019, the issues of no permanent meal site manager and the meal site location, as well as the future \$160,000 budget cut remain.

Below are the timeline of events and updates since our meeting. Please do your part and participate in the red items below.

Thank you!

8/16/18 Nutrition Advisory Council Meeting – announced closure of Manawa congregate meal site

8/23/18 Commission on Aging Meeting – postponed due to the Manawa complaints

8/29/18 Commission on Aging Meeting – 30 days given Manawa to brainstorm ideas short/long term

Posters created and distributed, stakeholders invited to a meeting planned for September 18, 2018.

9/5/18 Health & Human Services Committee Meeting – vote to continue to fund Manawa (due to representatives at meeting – see minutes at:

<http://www.co.waupaca.wi.us/County%20Clerk/Minutes/Health%20&%20Human%20Svc/09-05-2018%20Draft.pdf>)

9/9/18 local news media contacted Manawa asking to attend the community meeting

9/13/18 conversation with Leah Klein, Waupaca County Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Unit Director, who requested to speak at the 9/18/18 Community Input Meeting in Manawa

9/18/18 Community Input Meeting held at Manawa City Hall (meeting minutes available in paper copy in Blue folders at Manawa City Hall and Sturm Memorial Library in Manawa; minutes can be viewed online though the Manawa School District Website under the OUR COMMUNITY at:

<https://www.manawaschools.org/community/> or FACEBOOK under “What’s Happening in Manawa”

9/26/18 Waupaca County Finance Committee Meeting; Manawa citizens attended to request the county pay for Manawa meal site dishwasher upgrades as needed from their budget, since the dishwasher was owned by Waupaca County; no funds currently planned for this per the Waupaca County Human Services Director

(turn over)

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10/1/18 Commission on Aging Meeting Dr. Reilly attended to offer follow-up from the 9/18/18 Community Input meeting and learn follow-up from Waupaca County related to the Manawa meal site

1. A limited term float meal site manager, Jeff Green, has been hired by Waupaca County who will temporarily fill-in at the Manawa meal site, as Diane did from December 2017 through summer 2018. Meal site participation was stated to still be at one person per day, although drivers report increased participation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Encourage friends, neighbors, relatives, yourself, and anyone over the eligibility age of 60 years to attend a meal at the Manawa meal site to increase use and build sense of community.

2. There are no immediate plans by Waupaca County personnel nor Human Resources to seek a permanent meal site manager for the Manawa site, despite that position being vacant since December 2017. It was noted a permanent meal site manager encourages participation and events at meal sites, as well as sense of community, thereby decreasing isolation, more so than a "limited term temporary" float meal site manager, who can be pulled to another site as need arises. It was also noted that the Waupaca County Board has the power for employee approvals, not Human Resources not Waupaca County personnel.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend the next meetings of the Waupaca County Health and Human Services Committee to again voice the slow follow-up and urgency in the need for a permanent meal site manager to be hired for the Manawa meal site, as this committee approved 9/5/18. These two meetings will be held:

- **Wednesday, October 5, 2018 at 5PM** at the Waupaca County Courthouse, 811 Harding Street, Waupaca, WI in the Board Room first floor
 - **Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 5PM** at the Waupaca County Courthouse, in the Board Room first floor
3. The Town of Little Wolf, the current meal site, and Waupaca County are to meet to discuss next steps to keep the meal site in its current location the second week of October.
 4. The School District of Manawa contacted Waupaca County and have a meeting set for the second week of October to discuss the specifics and logistics of the meal site program for the immediate needs, and future needs of Manawa and the county.
 5. A joint meeting of the Waupaca County Nutritional Advisory Committee (NAC) and Commission on Aging (COA) to provide updates and discuss future meal site plans will be held in November 2018.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend the meeting of the Waupaca County NAC and COA Committee to voice your concerns, ideas, and support for the future of the Waupaca County Senior meals program

- **Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 1:30PM** at the Weyauwega Senior Meal site, Weyauwega Community Center, 109 East Main Street, Weyauwega, WI 54983