

January 2026



Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 0600-1430, Closed Holidays

Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the past year, the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) office would like to extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering dedication and selfless service have made a significant difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families.

Your compassion, commitment, and countless hours of volunteer work have not gone unnoticed. Thanks to you, we have been able to provide extraordinary support and care to those who have served our nation. We are truly humbled by your generosity and are incredibly fortunate to have you as part of our team.

As we usher in a new year, we look forward to continuing this journey together and achieving even greater milestones. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish you a joyous and prosperous New Year filled with happiness and fulfillment.

Thank you once again for being our invaluable partners in serving our Veterans.

Deb, Heath, Cindy, Jen

Additional Notes:

1. **Stop and see us** for your **2026 planner & Annual Reviews**. We will also coordinate sending them to CBOCs if that works better for you. **Annual Reviews are due back to CDCE by January 30, 2026.**

2. Volunteers needed for Upcoming Special Events!

scan QR Code for SignUpGenius link



1/8/2026—LIVE Music With Shawn & Ernie, 1:30-3:00pm; Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall

1/23/2026—LIVE Music with “Silo Jumpers,” 1:30-2:30pm, Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall

1/29/2026—Creative Arts Coffee house, 6:00pm; Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall

2/5/2026—LIVE Music with “4 Strings is Enough;” 1:30pm-2:30pm, Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall

2/11/2026 –Valentine’s Day Dance; 1:30pm-3:00pm; Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall. Music by Grumpy Old Men Big Band.

Please see calendar on page 4 for more information to include times and location.

Current Volunteer Needs

- **Storybook Club**—Visit Small homes weekly and ready to Veterans together (30 minutes or so)
- **Store Runners**—assist small home Veterans to canteen to spend their bingo money
- **Volunteers for Small Homes (Dementia)** - Volunteers would be interacting with residents within the Small Homes, all of which are living with dementia. Ideally, Volunteers would provide engagement via conversation, hobby type activities that the Veteran is interested in, and assisting to participate in recreational activities as provided by Recreation staff. Daytime hours would be most beneficial (0900-1600) as these hours provide the larger opportunities for social engagement (Early evening hours also available). Increasing socialization and engagement with the residents living with dementia would assist in improving their quality of life, meeting their need of human connection, and helping to provide a sense of purpose. Training would be provided to all interested Volunteers
- **Volunteer In-Home Visitor Program**—Veterans are matched with Volunteers, who live in the same community as the Veteran. Volunteers provide friendly social home visits-provide conversation, support, engage in simple activities (crafts, puzzles, games, reading, short walks, etc). Volunteers are not trained health care professional and will not provide any hands-on or medical care. Volunteers visit once per week for 2 – 4 hours, no more than eight hours per week.
- **Loving Spoonfuls**—specifically in building 409 during breakfast (7:00am) and dinner (4:30pm).
- **Evening Recreation activities** (1:1 or group) on 402b Rehab
- **Wausau Vet Center Outstation**—assist with phones, greeting visitors 0800-1630 M, W, Th, F; 11am--1930pm Tuesdays *volunteers can select hours based on their availability in these timeframes

- **Chapel Volunteers**—escort inpatient Veterans to Chapel as scheduled:
 - Sundays at 1:00pm - Protestant
 - Wednesdays at 2:45pm - Catholic Mass
- **Compassionate Contact Corps (CCC)**— Requesting more male Veteran volunteers virtual volunteers to call Veterans who struggle with loneliness and social isolation (average 15 minute commitment / week)
- **Coffee Cart Volunteers** - Outpatient Clinic locations
 - Wausau/Rothchild (Friday)
 - Wisconsin Rapids (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)
 - La Crosse (Friday)

Current Donation Needs List

- iTunes Gift cards—used by Music and Memory program
- Create Sorting and Reminiscing boxes—fill small boxes with textured fabrics, old photos, household items to sort through.
- Winter Gloves/Mittens (Men's large and XL)
- Long Sleeve Cotton colored t-shirts (Large-2XL)
- Colored Pocket t-shirts (L-2XL)
- Sweatshirts L-2XL *not hooded
- Women's 8.5 shoes
- Backpacks
- Men's Winter Coats (3XL ONLY)



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Tomah VA Free Choice Activities—All Veterans Welcome

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>VA Library Hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm Building 401, room 1100</p> 	<p>Need medical clearance & appointment for adaptive sports events</p> 	<p>Bowling Alley is located in Building 406, room 1615</p> 		<p>1 New Years Day</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p>	<p>2 *1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p>	<p>3 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:30 Bingo (ALA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>
<p>4 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>7 *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p>8 1:30pm Live Music with Ernie & Shawn; Bldg 455, Veterans Hall</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p>11 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>12:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>12 10:00am CLC Resident Council; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>13 *12:30-2:30 Air Rifle Clinic Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>14 1:30 Bingo (ALA Elroy) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p>15 1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>16 *1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p>	<p>17 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p>18 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p>	<p>20 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>21 *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p>	<p>22 1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>23 1:30 Live Music with Silo Jumpers; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>24 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p>25 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>12:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>6:00pm Bingo (DAV—Ch. 27) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>28 1:30 Bingo (VFWA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p>29 1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>6:00pm— Creative Arts Coffeehouse, Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Tomah VA Medical Center