

GREATER WAUSAU

2023-2024
Relocation
Guide

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Cover photo by Andy Meitzner

The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce invites you to enjoy this publication, which uncovers why the Greater Wausau area is a great place to work, play and live. Greater Wausau is about elevating your life, naturally. It's not just about living to work or working to live, but about living fully; about enjoying the kind of balance that allows you to approach every day with heightened anticipation.

You are close to the best of everything Wisconsin has to offer. But the Greater Wausau area isn't just about an abundance of exceptional experiences at your doorstep; you'll find an attitude here that elevates the richness of everyday moments.

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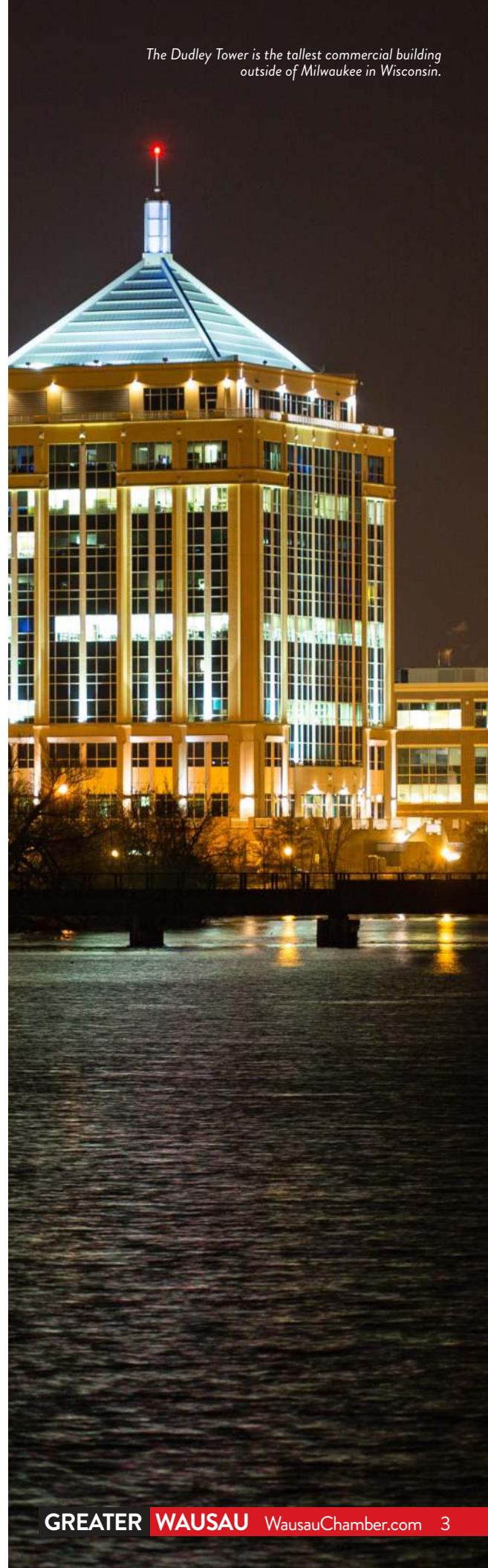
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A CONTINUED LEGACY ON THE ISLAND

VIEW PHOTOS
FROM THE
RENOVATION
PROJECT:



The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce is bridging the community's bustling past with its vibrant future in its new office space within the historic Depot at 209 W. Washington Street in downtown Wausau. The Depot was built in 1899 on the Chicago North Western railway that transported people, including President Calvin Coolidge in 1928, into Wausau to make business deals and move lumber throughout the country. The railway still functions today on the Fox Valley & Lake Superior Rail System.

The Depot has undergone a complete remodel to serve as the proud home of the Chamber while serving as a community hub for collaboration with group meeting space and private work areas. Most importantly, the Depot is the first completed step in transforming Clark Island into an economic development campus, with the redevelopment of the historic WPS Powerhouse property next in line.

The WPS Powerhouse on Clark Island, right, was built in 1904 and played a significant role in supplying power for Wausau's fledgling businesses. The building remained in use as a power plant until 1946 and was used between 1979 and 2007 as offices for Wausau Paper.

SEE *DEPOT* CONTINUED ON PAGE 7





DEPOT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

With the Depot renovations now completed, the Chamber will turn towards reinventing the WPS Powerhouse.

The Ghidorzi team worked with the Chamber on the Depot project to achieve a design that would maximize the existing square footage of the building to improve circulation, establish visual connections throughout the building and enhance exterior views. Great care was taken to maintain architectural integrity while updating accessibility and functionality to current building code standards.

Preserving and accentuating historical elements were also top priorities in the redesign. Historical elements and artifacts were blended with modern accents to celebrate the industrial character of the area. For example, brick walls were exposed, ticket windows and doors were relocated to the interior, and the original passenger benches were refurbished to be featured as a functional interior focal points.

The finishing touches found in this renovated space were a particularly rewarding aspect of the project for the contractors and achieves an especially high touchpoint for Chamber members and staff. Antiques were salvaged out of old train stations, a favorite



being a railroad crossing sign equipped with marbles to reflect light. Original artifacts from the Chicago North Western line were tracked down. Million mile oak, reclaimed wood from the floorboards of train cars retired after traveling a million miles, was discovered and used to craft the bar and an adjacent table to make many more memories for years to come.

The Depot has always been a proud symbol of Wausau's entrepreneurial roots in the lumber industry, and the Chamber is breathing new life into that legacy with the Depot as its new headquarters.



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Our Mission ... To advance student learning, achievement, and success





EXPLORE A FABULOUS FOODSCAPE

If you're a local social media user, chances are you've stumbled upon WIFC's Dave Kallaway's mouthwatering food photos. The man knows how to show off meatloaf and mashed potatoes. But when the self-proclaimed foodie isn't cooking, what's his favorite dish downtown?

"I love Chef Tami's lobster mac and cheese at Townies. And she just started doing lobster rolls — very tasty," said Kallaway.

He's a big fan of Wausau's mushrooming culinary scene. "We own variety when it comes to food choices," said Kallaway.

Diverse restaurants are a significant part of the Wausau's appeal, contributing to its social fabric and economic prosperity. Whether they've been downtown since 1888, like The Mint Café, or they're a newcomer to the urban landscape like CHAR Grillhouse, restaurants help define the city's character by bringing people together and creating experiences.

"We have customers who've been coming in and getting the same Greek salad for more than 50 years," said Julie Luedtke, catering director of The Mint Café. "There are some who love to come in and order a cloverleaf dinner roll like when they came here with their grandparents."

In its 135 years, The Mint has seated countless patrons at their iconic green booths.

"We've hosted numerous artists who have been in town for various events, from meals with Aretha Franklin and B.B. King to those who come back every time they're in town like Lorie Line or Jim Belushi," said Luedtke. "We are honored and humbled to be a part of all of it, both the big-name artists and the loyal locals who join us for three meals a day."

Currently, Joe Pepowski, owner of The Mint, is transitioning ownership to long-time employee Joe Schulz, who has been

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