



Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)

500 East Veterans Street (135), Tomah, WI 54660

608-372-1727

VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov

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

Upcoming Special Events: *please see page 2 for additional activities that could use assistance



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) **National Salute to Veteran Patients Week** is observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the Salute's expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans. This year's observance for National Salute to Veteran Patients will be February 9-15, 2025

- 2/1/2025—BINGO (ALA State), 1:30pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall
- 2/11/25—BINGO (Wilton AL Post 508), 1:30pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall
- 2/12/25—Valentines Day Dance 1:30pm-3:00pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall
- 2/13/25—Day at the Races (American Legion—state), 1:30pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall
- 2/19/25—BINGO (VFWA—state), 1:30pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall
- 2/25/25—BINGO (DAV-Ch.27) 1:30pm, Building 455: Veterans Hall

There will also be a bowling tournament with scores being tracked during open bowling hours throughout the week. See calendar on page 2 for times and days.

Upcoming Meetings:

⇒ **Greenhouse Volunteers!** Orientation to ANY Volunteer interested in helping in the greenhouse this spring/summer/etc will be on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 10:00am in the greenhouse. Please mark your calendars to attend for tour of the space, discuss plans for seedlings, review of chemical storage, etc.



⇒ **VAVS Meetings**

- **VAVS Executive Meeting**—Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 10:00am, Building 407, room 1724 or via TEAMS at 1-872-701-0185 Phone Conference ID 922 762 534#
- **VAVS Quarterly Meeting** - Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 10:00am, Building 407, room 1724 via TEAMS at 1-872-701-0185 Phone Conference ID 547 109 012#

⇒ **Stakeholder Meeting**—February 11th at 12:30pm in 407/1724. VAVS Reps and Deps should have received invitation from Public Affairs.



February 2025

Tomah VA Free Choice Activities—All Veterans Welcome

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*All Adaptive Sports Clinics are located in Building 15. Need medical clearance & appointment for adaptive sports events</p>		<p>VA Library Hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm</p> 		<p>Bowling Alley is located in Building 406, room 1615</p> 		<p>1 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30 Bingo (ALA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>
<p>2 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>3 5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>4 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>5 *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>3:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p> <p>5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>8 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p>
<p>9 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p> 	<p>10 5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling *Bowling Tournament</p>	<p>11 *12:30-2:30 Air Rifle Clinic Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:30pm Bingo (AL Post 508, Wilton) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>12 *1:00-2:30pm Nat'l Events Clinic, Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:30-3:00pm Valentine's Day Dance; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>3:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>*Bowling Tournament</p>	<p>13 1:30pm Day at the Races (American Legion—State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>14 5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling *Bowling Tournament</p>	<p>15 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> 
<p>National Salute to Veteran Patients Week</p>						
<p>16 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>17 Presidents' Day 8:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p> 	<p>18 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>19 *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:30pm Bingo (VFWA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>3:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p> <p>5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>22 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p>
<p>23 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>24 8:00am-1:00pm Versiti Blood Drive; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>25 1:30pm Bingo (DAV—Ch. 27) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>26 2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>3:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:30pm-7:30pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>To Learn more about Volunteer opportunities, contact CDCE at 608-372-1727</p> 

Current Needs List

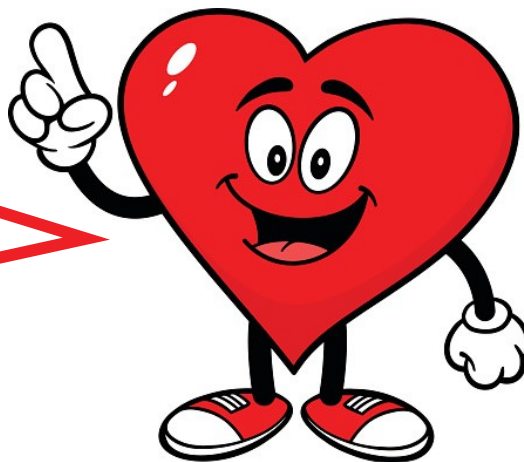
- **NEW!** Electric Razors
- **NEW!** Composition Notebooks
- Men's Tennis Shoes (size 10)
- Men's snow boots (Sizes 10, 11, 12)
- Regular and Decaf Coffee—large tubs for units
- Hot Chocolate, Regular and sugar free



Current Volunteer Needs

- **BIGGEST NEEDS to help our Community Living Center (CLC) aka inpatient Veterans**
 - **455 Activities**—Volunteers to assist inpatients to scheduled 455 activities (see page 2) ***if we don't have a enough volunteers, we may have to move activity to unit instead of hospital wide.**
 - **Chapel Volunteers**—escort inpatient Veterans to Chapel as scheduled:
 - Sundays at 1:00pm - Protestant
 - Wednesdays at 2:45pm - Catholic Mass
 - **NEW! CLC Volunteer**—escort Veterans to appointments, 1:1 visits, assist Veterans to canteen, library, etc.
- **NEW!** Clothing room — organize donated clothes in clothing room (Building 416)
- **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)
- **Drivers for VTS** (Wheelchair vehicles), weekend coverage as able (Dialysis)
- **Blue Team BTSSS Computer Assistant** - assist Veterans with **My HealthVet** and BTSSS Portal
- **Wausau Outpatient Clinic Greeter**
- **Bowling Alley Volunteers:** open bowling alley, assist bowlers with getting shoes, ball, electronic scoring.
- **Recreation Volunteers (fishing, games, visiting, music, art)**— to assist with programming and 1:1 visits with inpatient Veterans
- **Coffee Cart Volunteers** - Outpatient Clinic locations (Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, La Crosse)

Volunteers
Needed!



Volunteer Notes:

- ⇒ **Annual Review** — PLEASE read through all 4 pages to ensure you understand expectations as Tomah VA Volunteer. Pages 5 and 6 need to be signed/completed and returned to remain an active volunteer. *This was included in your December newsletter you should have received via USPS*
- ⇒ **PIV Cards** - Check Expiration Dates!! We are coming up to our 6 month of our new PIV's (Valid only 6 months). If you come in before their 6 months expires, you don't have to get new fingerprints, just get new card.
- ⇒ Starting May 7th, 2025, PIV Registrars will no longer be able to accept Driver's Licenses or state-issued Identification(ID) cards that aren't REAL ID compliant. Your card can be identified as REAL ID compliant if it has a star marking in the upper right-hand corner.

REAL ID-Compliant IDs

Starting May 7th, 2025, Registrars will no longer be able to accept Driver's licenses or state-issued Identification (ID) cards that aren't REAL ID compliant. Your card can be identified as REAL ID compliant if it has a star marking in the upper right-hand corner. Please refer to the images below for examples of REAL ID-compliant state ID and Driver's licenses.

Real-ID Compliant indicated by the "star" symbol on the ID.

Additional REAL ID information can be found in the *Identity Documents Examples* section of our [USAccess Acceptable forms of ID Guide](#).

- ⇒ New Parking Passes for Tomah Volunteers. Forms available in 407/1750 or directly in police office. Please complete this ASAP
- ⇒ Because we still get called and asked if we help with taxes...
MONROE COUNTY, Wis. (MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PRESS RELEASE) - AARP tax volunteers and the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Monroe County are pleased to announce the 2025 tax season dates. The free, confidential service is open to low – moderate income residents with a focus given to adults 60 or older. Starting on Feb. 5, residents can have their taxes completed in Sparta at the Sparta Barney Community Center at 1000 E. Montgomery St. The volunteers will be available on Wednesday and Friday through April 9.

The service is free, however, reservations are required. Appointments can be made starting January 15 by calling 608-487-7112 between 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. [Monroe County: 2025 AARP Tax Preparation](#)