

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 9/3/2024

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## De Pere Health Department Sponsors Series of Events to Promote Social Connectedness and Community Wellbeing

DE PERE, Wis. — The De Pere Health Department and community partners in De Pere are joining together to sponsor several events in September: all of which are focused on promoting "Social Connectedness" as a key element of health and wellbeing.

These unique events aim to bring the community together, foster meaningful connections, and highlight the profound impact of social interaction on overall health.

The events include:

- **Sept. 12, 5pm-7pm: Beau Thomas "Belonging Begins Here" Mural Unveiling**  
The De Pere Farmer's Market will host the official unveiling of Beau Thomas's "Belonging Begins Here" mural. This event is in collaboration with Definitely De Pere and will celebrate the power of art in fostering community spirit. Beau's design was chosen through community-wide voting.
- **Sept. 19, 6pm-7:30pm: The Science of Social Interaction: Building a Vibrant and Healthy Community with Micro-Moments of Human Connection**  
Relationship social scientist Dr. Carol Bruess will lead a dynamic discussion at St. Norbert College on how simple, everyday interactions can lead to significant health benefits. This event is sponsored by the De Pere Health Department and St. Norbert Health & Wellness Center.
- **Sept. 26, 5:30pm-8:30pm: "Join or Die" Documentary Screening and Joining Fair**  
At the Mulva Cultural Center, attendees will have the unique opportunity to watch the "Join or Die" documentary on a Samsung Onyx screen (one of only three in the country). This film explores the decline in American community connections and how we can reverse this trend. Following the screening, a Joining Fair will provide a chance for community members to learn about and join local groups, leagues, clubs, and organizations that best match their own talents, time, and interest.

"Our goal with these events is to show just how vital social connections are to our overall health and wellbeing," said Chrystal Woller, De Pere Health Department Health Officer. "We hope to inspire residents and give them tools to build stronger connections for themselves and the De Pere community."

For more information and to register for events, please visit the City of De Pere's Social Connectedness page at <http://www.deperewi.gov/belong>.

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