

# Editorial: Thumbs Up and Down

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*Thumbs Up to an Appleton committee for serving the public.*



*(Photo: Getty Images/iStockphoto)*

**Thumbs Up:** To everyone who contributed to the United Way Fox Cities 2014 campaign.

United Way announced Wednesday that it had met its \$8.1 million goal, the highest amount it has raised in a year.

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The \$8.1 million goal was an increase from the 2013 goal of \$7.7 million.

We're grateful that so many of you see the value in the great work that United Way Fox Cities contributes to and chose to join the cause.

**Thumbs Up:** To the Appleton Community and Economic Development Committee, for its engagement with city residents.

The committee, chaired by Peter Stueck, will hold a public meeting in February specifically about the proposed Fox Cities Exhibition Center and allow people to comment.

**RELATED:** [Appleton will invite public to Exhibition Night](#)

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It's patterned after the Common Council's Budget Saturday, in which alderman hash out the budget proposal.

The exhibition center has drawn a lot of debate, as well as questions among the public. The planned meeting is a good step in addressing the debate and the questions.

**Thumbs Down:** To the entire situation in which two Appleton school students were prevented from getting on a bus to their school.

The kids, age 7 and 9, were bused each day from a local daycare to their school. Because they attend school outside their neighborhood, their parents have to pay for busing.

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They were delinquent in making those payments and, according to the school district, the usual procedure is to send the kids home with a note, saying it's their last day they'd be allowed to ride. But in their case, they were prevented by the bus driver from boarding and sent back to the day care.

The parents should have paid their bill but the district and bus driver should have stayed with the note procedure. By denying them a ride, the kids likely were left confused and maybe scared. It didn't have to happen that way.

**Thumbs Down:** To the 15 percent of state drivers who don't wear seatbelts.

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Wisconsin ranks 35th in seatbelt-compliance rate, at 84.7 percent. That compares poorly to the national average of 87 percent and average of Wisconsin's neighboring states of better than 93 percent.

The state's rate is actually an improvement from 82.4 percent, but there's a lot of work that needs to be done. Seatbelts save lives. It's as simple as that.