



Issue 03

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

March 2014

## Administration

The first Workplace Enhancement (WE) meeting was held March 5<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder this meeting will be held quarterly and is a way to build a relationship with non-supervisory staff.

In organizations, we sometimes forget those in the trenches, and focus solely on leadership positions. While I'll never downplay the importance of solid department leaders, many times the people completing the work day to day are the ones that see things I or department heads may not. Providing an avenue for them to have input in the organization is important. This inclusion builds

trust and brings departments together for increased communication.

During the meeting, several ideas were brought forth, two are outlined here. One, what is the government center plan for certain emergencies, such as an intruder? Two, can we find a way to better manage the fleet vehicles, such as snow removal. Both are great ideas and both have solutions that will be rolled out in the coming months. Regarding the emergency plan for the Government Center, Emergency Management and the Sheriff's depart-

ment already have a draft plan. Upcoming trainings with all staff on proper procedures will take place in early summer. As for the fleet maintenance; currently, the Clerk's staff maintain the vehicles. They schedule them to be cleaned, remove snow (or the person using the vehicle that day) and they manage maintenance and track mileage. While the Clerk's office does a great job, it clearly isn't the most effective use of county resources. Staff will be developing a policy and procedure for the fleet vehicles prior to next winter.

## Health and Community Services

Burnett County Health and Human Services received notification on February 10<sup>th</sup> that the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Program (TAD) Grant for 2014 in the amount of \$140,477 has been approved through the Wisconsin Department of Justice. This grant is shared with Washburn County and funds the Drug Court Program for both counties. The Burnett/Washburn Drug Court program provides a high level of service within the continuum for Alcohol and Other Drug (AODA) treatment services, as it is comprehensive,

time intensive and often the last chance for some probationers before facing jail or prison time. The Drug Court program works to find the right blend of treatment and court oversight, support and sanctions to support the participant through the intensive outpatient program. Drug Court works because we encase the participant in a holistic treatment program to reduce all criminal activity as well as alcohol and drug use of the participants, for a life time. In order to achieve this, we must help the

participant in making lifestyle changes rather than just focusing on not using drugs or alcohol. This includes developing responsible habits, choosing appropriate friends and relationships, focusing on employment, addressing mental health issues and maintaining sobriety. This is a lot to ask of the participants, but the support and intensity of the Drug Court Program just might be the elements that make a difference for the participant this time.

## Land and Water Conservation

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) has been an important tool to encourage agricultural landowners to keep their land in agriculture for many years. The program provides financial incentives in return for maintaining land in agriculture and complying with Agricultural Conservation Standards.

While landowners in Burnett County have taken advantage of this program for many years, the Farmland Preservation

structure changed with the passage of the State Working Lands Initiative and is no longer tied to income. Now per acre payments are based on the level of protection from non-farm development that is provided by local guidelines. Counties are required to have an FPP Plan in order for landowners to participate. The Burnett County Plan expires this year.

The Land and Water Conservation Department is working with State, Federal and local

partners on the update. Although the Burnett County Comprehensive Plan contains much of the required information for this update, additional information will be gathered through surveys and public comments. All information will be compiled into a revised FPP plan with a target completion date of December 2014.

After approval by the State, the updated plan will become effective in 2015.

## Forestry

With the close of February, the Burnett County Forest is looking to expand its boundaries in the near future. This comes from the County Board approved "Dogtown Creek" 200 acre land acquisition and the "Land Trade" with the WI DNR. The Dogtown Creek property has been purchased and an application sent to the DNR to add that property to the County Forest system. However, the "Land Trade" project is still in the works. At the end of February the DNR public comment period regarding the "Land Trade" was com-

pleted. I have been told that the DNR is reviewing and addressing comments and once that has been finalized staff will be contacted with the next steps of the trade, which we are hoping will be the transferring of the deeds. For those that may not remember the details of the "Land Trade" project, here is a brief rundown of what is involved. Burnett County will be trading 6362 acres (1322 ac north of Crex & 5040 ac of the Namekagon Barrens) to the WI DNR for 5672 acres (Various State properties) and a cash payment of \$660,750. This acreage will be added to

the Burnett County Forest System and in the end; the County Forest will increase its acreage by 4345 acres. For more specific information regarding these projects, please contact the Burnett County Forestry office.



## ADRC

Dawn Sargent, Aging Supervisor, has been developing partnerships to get some wellness programs up and running in our community. The ADRC along with the St. Croix Chipewewa Tribal Health Department and Polk Co. Public Health will be hosting "Living Well". *Living Well* is an evidence-based workshop for people who have one or more chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, and other long-term

problems. The workshop meets once a week for six weeks. It is facilitated by two trained leaders in a classroom style, but most of the learning comes from sharing and helping others with similar challenges. Our target is May or June in the Frederic Area. *"Stepping On"*, a program proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people, will include a partnership with St. Croix Regional Medical Center. The workshops meet for

two hours a week for seven weeks. It is the process in which the program is taught that makes it effective. Classes are highly participative; mutual support and success build participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health behaviors, reduce their risk of falls, and maintain active and fulfilling lives. This will take place in the Siren area in June. Please watch for further information!

## Child Support

One for the books!! Burnett County has many Good Samaritans and we had one stop by our office earlier this week. We had a visit from a woman who brought in an uncashed child support check she found

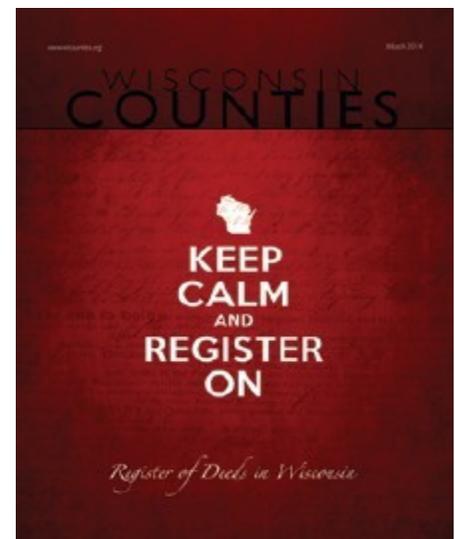
in a book recently checked out of the library. Our Good Samaritan said that the check didn't belong to her and hoped we could get it to the rightful owner. It turns out that the check was issued by another

WI county in May of 2001. We have contacted the other county with this information and hope they will be able to locate the rightful owner and have the check reissued. Many thanks, Good Samaritan!!

## Register of Deeds

We will soon be on our new software program for one year this April. This program enables us to do all of our indexing, viewing the documents, purchasing online and receipts all from one program, which is a very good feature. In our old system we were working back and forth between 4 different systems and 3 different vendors. We are looking forward to spring coming, as of right now

our recording numbers have been down for the last few months. When spring comes recordings start going up. Numbers of recordings have been down throughout the State of Wisconsin. If you haven't read the Wisconsin Counties Association March 2014 issue, I'd encourage you to visit [www.wicounties.org](http://www.wicounties.org). It's all about the Register of Deeds!



## IT

### Why do I get so much spam?

You don't. No really, that is the truth. Considering how much spam does get blocked, what does get through is not enough to worry about.

In the past 52 weeks, we have received 1,058,887 emails. 50% of those emails were blocked and deleted immediately because the sender was a known spammer. 30% of the emails were caught by the filter and classified as spam. These would be the messages that make your morning list. And finally, of the 1,058,887 messages last year only 209,353 (20%) were legitimate email sent to your mailboxes. A small percentage of that "legitimate" email would be

spam that was missed by the filter.

### How do spammers get my email address?

1. Spammers buy email lists. If you sign up for something, anything, they usually want an email address. And your address will end up on a list somewhere. The company will usually have a privacy policy that states that they only share your address with their partners. Well they share with their partners, who share with their partners, who share with their partners, who sell it to a spammer. If you have an email address, you will get spam eventually. Even the DMV sells their

list.

2. They look for it. If your email address is listed on a website, an automated script will find it and add you to a list. Or if someone you ever sent an email to becomes infected with a virus, that virus can search their email account and add everyone's address to a list.

3. Unsubscribe. Unless it is a legitimate company who sent you an email, never ever click unsubscribe or reply to a spam. Not only do you verify that your email address is correct, but that you actually read the email. Knowing that you read the spam email might get you put on the premium lists, or the good person to spam list.

## County Treasurer

Lottery Credit and First Dollar Credit reports have been filed with the WI Dept of Revenue. By filing these reports the County will receive payments for the Lottery Credits and First Dollars Credits that were in-

cluded on the 2013 tax bills. These funds are part of the whole tax settlement process with the towns, villages, schools and WITC. A detailed file of all Lottery Credits has been forwarded to the Dept of

Revenue. Settlement reports for all 24 towns and villages have been sent electronically to the Dept of Revenue. Delinquent statements have been mailed out and we are receiving lots of phone calls and payments.

## Airport

A new Jet-A and 91 octane "Mogas" fuel system is scheduled to be installed late summer of 2014. Per an inspection by the WI Dept. of Commerce in December 2012 the 25+ year old tank exhibited exterior corrosion which warranted refurbishment.

Further investigation revealed evidence of interior corrosion as well. Estimates for refurbishment were in the \$10K to \$14K range. Instead of refurbishing an old undersized tank, it was decided to leverage Burnett County dol-

lars as our share of a State and Federal project replacing and upgrading the system with higher capacity and flowage rates. This should not interfere with or inhibit use of the fuel facilities for County fleet vehicles.

## Highway

As we all know this winter season has been a long enduring battle with old Mother Nature and I am not sure who is controlling whom. So far we have consumed 43 percent of the 2014 Annual Budget keeping the highways passable for the residents and the tourists visiting the North Woods and from many sources the public is pleased with the performance of our crews. I know I am very pleased with all the efforts put

forth. The 2014 Project Schedule is in full swing with the remaining 3.52 miles of CTH B and 2 miles of CTH M north of State Road 70 scheduled for improvements this summer. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is rolling out a new pilot program called Performance Based Management that Burnett County will be participating in this summer. The program will involve conducting highway maintenance

improvements on shoulders on STH 70 for 4.7 miles and crack routing and sealing on STH 35 for 13.8 miles. This is part of the 9 million dollars that Governor Walker and secretary of Transportation procured and will be utilized within the 72 counties of Wisconsin. Remember spring is right around the corner so please give our crews plenty of room when passing through our construction zones.

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## University of Wisconsin Extension and Tourism

4-H Youth and Families Educator Beth Johnson is meeting partners and stakeholders. She is working towards developing a needs assessment to focus and plan her programming. Julie Yezek is teaching an after school program with elementary age students this spring.

Ag Agents are working on the following: Kevin Schoessow has spring gardening programs including an apple tree pruning in Grantsburg on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and

grape pruning at Spooner Ag station on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Otto Wiegand is working on beef cow/calf seminar at Jim Melin's in Trade Lake (April 2<sup>nd</sup>). Our Agricultural Agents serve three counties including Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer. For questions you can call them at 800-528-1914.

The Jordan Buck Centennial continues with a lot of event planning and fund raising. The main event is October 4<sup>th</sup> at

Northwoods Crossing that will include a meal, the art of the Jim Jordan Buck story, a commemorative rifle live auction and other activities. Local artisan Harriet Rice is working on a community puppet project. The project will entail community volunteers constructing a Jordan Buck Puppet (think of the Broadway production of War Horse) for use at community events and parades.

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## Emergency Management

Emergency Management has received a grant of \$6500 from the State to conduct a series of exercises over the next 2 years. Participating departments will include Health and Human Services, Airport, Law Enforcement, Hazmat team and the lo-

cal ARES/RACES group. The scenario will be centered at the airport and will involve mass fatalities, hazardous materials and population protection. Several Eagle Scout candidates from the Grantsburg area will also be involved.

A Skywarn Spotter class is scheduled for April 28 at 7:00PM in room 165 of the Government Center. The National Weather Service will discuss how to identify and report severe weather. This training is free and open to the public.

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## Zoning

Residents of Burnett County may remember postcards that were sent out within the last few years. These cards inquired about the presence of a septic system or privy located on the property, and were a result of State code mandates requiring counties to track all septic systems. Starting this year, Burnett County Zoning will be using a new computer system that allows for computerized entering and tracking of Land Use and Sanitary permits. Later this year the public will be able to visit the Burnett County Zoning website to look up their permit history and pumping records. This feature will eventually include the scanned cop-

ies of all permits. In addition, the new computer program will put the County back on track to meet the 2016 deadline for the County-wide inventory of all septics.

The intent of all State sanitary laws are to protect the general health of the public through monitoring new installations as well as requiring periodic "check-ups" on existing systems through cyclical 3 year pumping/inspection requirements. The lakes and groundwater are arguably the most important resources we have in northern Wisconsin and a failing septic system can be detrimental to our natural surroundings and hazardous to

the health of the homeowners.

There are Federal, State, and local programs that may be available to assist homeowners in replacing a septic system through loans or grants. Most of these are income based and intended to help those who cannot afford to replace a system. In most cases the Zoning Office will allow up to one year for the replacement of a failed system, so homeowners have time to gather funds.

If you are unsure whether you have a septic that is failing and need help applying for these programs, please contact the Burnett County Zoning Office for help. (715) 349-2138.

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