



Issue 06

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

June 2014

## Administration

On June 13, the County Board held a Committee of the Whole meeting to outline goals and priorities under the auspices of each standing committee. This process will assist staff in developing work plans, provide focus for those serving on standing committees, offer a sense of direction for residents, and assist in developing budgets that reflect the near and long term values of the County Board.

The goals and priorities will be provided to each standing committee in the coming months with the intent that they are further developed and addressed in work plans. While a lot of discussion took place the following are a few objectives that were identified:

**Administration Committee:** Further focus on financial poli-

cies including debt issuance, appropriate fund balance, consistent budget structure among departments, and development of a long term capital financing plan.

**Health and Community Services Committee:** Develop work from home programs, review, understand and work towards a sustainable transportation plan for seniors and disabled, focus on preventative services and programs, and collaborate with other departments.

**Infrastructure:** Develop a long term maintenance budget and sustainable funding mechanism. Work with Administration Committee on a financing plan for the CIP.

**Land Use:** Review housing policies, develop a structure to encourage more life cycle housing,

and work to clean-up blighted properties.

**Natural Resources:** Continued focus on sustainable utilization of resources including both timber sales and recreational opportunities, and develop a plan and process that answers the what, why and when to acquire/dispose of land.

**Public Safety:** Develop a better understanding of requirements and recommendations of the DOC. Develop village and tribal partnerships for shared resources, training, etc.

Other areas of focus that were discussed were community and economic development, development of project management processes, and continued communication between departments as well as between the county and villages/towns.

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## Airport

Mark your calendars for the 7th annual Gandy Dancer Fly-In Airshow at Burnett County Airport on Saturday, July 26, 2014. This year the event will be bigger and better than ever, with mother nature's cooperation of course.

Attractions include a pancake breakfast, 7am - 11am, several lunch options (grilled items, tacos, Panini sandwiches), 10am - 2pm, vintage and military static display aircraft, airplane and helicopter rides for a fee, three aerobatic performances,

two parachute team jumps, vintage car show, 5K foot race on the Gandy Dancer Trail, and several kids activities (jump house, pedal planes, petting zoo, simulators).

There is no admission fee for the event.

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# Gandy Dancer Air★show

**No Admission!**

**Saturday, July 26  
7 am**

**Great For  
The Entire  
Family!**

**Burnett County Airport • Siren, WI  
[www.gandydancerflyindrivein.com](http://www.gandydancerflyindrivein.com)**



**5K Trail Run/Walk • 7:30 am**  
Registration form can be downloaded from our website or pick one up at ERA Parkside Realty office in Siren

**Static Display Aircraft**



**Classic Cars**



**Aerobatic Show  
11 am - 1 pm**



**More Stuff for  
Kids including a  
Bounce House!**



**Pancake Breakfast • 7:30 - 11 am**  
served by the AG Club

**Brats, Tacos, Sandwiches • 10 am - 1 pm**

**Airplane & Helicopter Rides**

**Remote Control Planes • 1 - 2 pm**  
flying demonstrations



**Skydivers**

## Emergency Management

Ask 100 people if they have ever been in a "Tornado Warning" and I estimate that most, if not all, will say yes. Ask how many have been in, or seen, a tornado and most will say never. The difference in these numbers creates a dangerous complacency which prompts us to utter, "It has never happened here!" Or, in the case of Burnett County residents, "It won't happen twice!"

On average, we see one to two Tornado Warnings each year. Each time they



occur, we turn to the latest in technological tools like weather apps, TV radar images, weather radios or computers to get that little bit of extra information we need to decide if we really need to worry or take action. Is that "red blob" on the radar moving in my direction or somewhere else? Was a tornado actually seen or is it "only" indicated on Doppler radar?

When it is real and a tornado impacts the area, County staff will be called upon to provide support

to the municipalities and the citizens. One of my most unpleasant jobs as EM Director is to call key staff at home or on their cell phones after hours and ask them to assist in activation of the Emergency Operations Center. Experience has shown that if I call them in the evening to assist, they will work through the night and go without sleep for at least 24 hours.

Next month I will describe why that first 12 hours of response to a tornado's destruction is so chaotic and confusing and what we can do to minimize it.

## Highway Department

We left behind a long winter maintenance season only to start the spring with high water causing some minor erosion problems. We are fortunate that the problems are minor and have caused little damage.

With spring, four college students have returned to assist the crews with patching, mowing, culvert replacements and traffic control for crack filling operations. The college students are also busy assisting in reclaiming portions of the gravel pits that are no longer used. They will be with us until school starts in the fall. What a valuable asset to the Highway Department!

Maintenance projects are on

schedule for the season. The improvement projects will begin after the 4th of July and be completed by October 1st. The improvement projects include new culverts to improve drainage and additional sub-base before the new surface treatment of E3 WMA is applied.

Another pleasant surprise occurred the other day; a Siren School bus pulled into the parking lot and all kids came in with a cake and presented it to the crew and said, "Thanks for keeping our roads safe."

We had a very valuable employee, Keith Martini, retire the end of May. Keith worked for the Highway Department for 20 years and will be missed. Good luck Keith with your future retirement plans.



## Land and Water Conservation

The Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department has been conducting the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program (CBCW) since 2005. CBCW is a statewide initiative to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, and is part of our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. So far, 8,990 boats have been inspected at Burnett County boat landings, averaging approximately 900 boats per year. As of mid-June, we've already reached 75% of our yearly average. In addition, over 17,000 people have been contacted and 7,328 hours have

been recorded at the landings over the last 10 years. This is especially important as we have four lakes with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in them. Keeping EWM from spreading is a priority for our program

The LWCD is also working to help control the spread of Purple Loosestrife (PLS), another invasive plant. Over 450 plants are dug each spring for root stock and planted for mass rearing of *Galerucella* beetles, which feed on the PLS. Volunteers on various lakes, the St. Croix Tribe, and Crex Meadows DNR raise the beetles for us to distrib-

ute throughout Burnett County to help control the spread of PLS. We have been working to control PLS since 2002 and are seeing significant success on reducing the infestations.



Although visually appealing, Purple Loosestrife is highly invasive.

## Maintenance and Grounds

Did you know that the high capacity well water system at the Government Center is considered a public water system? Specifically, it is classified as an Other Than Municipal/Non-Community, Non-Transient (OTM/NN) public water system. This is because it serves 25 or more of the same people for more than 30 days.

Our OTM/NN system is required to have a licensed operator, respond to any reporting and inspection requests from the DNR, and to perform various water sampling testing quarterly and annually - ranging in price from free to nearly \$2,000. We have received several cost saving waivers over the years due to our particular cir-

cumstances. Our system information and testing results are posted on the DNR's website (see box).

In May 2014, the DNR conducted their five year system inspection, and were pleased with support the County Board has given us for our proactive approach to managing the system with the ever changing regulatory requirements.

New plumbing codes require that anti-siphoning devices are installed in new plumbing fixtures that have contact with non-potable water sources, and we have had several installed over the last few years. The larger anti-siphoning devices are tested and inspected annually by a licensed plumber with a

special state inspection certification and the results are reported to the DNR.

As you can see, there is more going on with the drinking water at the Government Center than one would normally think. The best news is - the water at the Government Center is safe to drink and tastes pretty good too.

To view the testing results and the history of water testing for the Government Center, go to: [http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2\\$.startup](http://prodoasext.dnr.wi.gov/inter1/pws2$.startup).

Note: Highlight "Non-transient, Non-Community" under the public water system type and highlight the county as "Burnett", then press the find button. The Government Center will be the first one in the list. Click on that and you'll find all kinds of information about our system.

## Register in Probate/Juvenile Clerk

Spring is busy in the Register in Probate's Office. Annual accountings by guardians and trustees are due April 15 of each year. The Register in Probate audits the accountings to ensure the ward's or beneficiary's funds are being used in accordance with the law. In several cases, more detailed financial verification is requested or the accounting is returned to the guardian or trustee because the accounting does not balance. Nearly half of the guardians missed the April 15th deadline this year. Many complied after getting a late notice, however,

there are still several who have not responded. Those guardians will soon be receiving an Order to Show Cause to appear in Court for their failure to follow the Court's Order.

During the slower summer months, I catch up on scanning old files and preparing files that can be shipped to the State Historical Society for retention. I am scanning old cases into our computer system in both to protect records that have a permanent retention, such as Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights cases, and to free up storage space. Estate cases take

up the most storage space as they must be kept by the county for 75 years after closing. Off site storage of these electronic records will allow recovery if there is ever a disaster, natural or otherwise, which damages or destroys the paper file.

In Juvenile issues, the number of Children in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) filings has increased greatly from this time last year, whereas Delinquencies, Juveniles in Need of Protection and Services (JIPS) and Ordinance violation filings are down slightly.

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## Treasurer

Early in June we sent out postcards reminding property owners that the second installment of their 2013 property taxes is due by July 31, 2014.

There are several options for

taxpayers to make their payments:

- in office by check, cash, credit card, electronic check; mail a check;
- online credit card or electronic check, access through the Bur-

nett County Treasurer's web page;

- 1-855-833-4936 for credit cards;
- or the payment drop box in front of the Government Center.

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## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

Though students are taking a break from the structured learning opportunities of school, there are many summer activities to keep them active and learning.

All 941 county kindergarteners through fifth graders received a flier highlighting the opportunities for fun learning available to them throughout the county.

To view the flier, go to <http://burnett.uwex.edu/>

[files/2014/06/2014-Summer-Event-Flyer.pdf](http://files/2014/06/2014-Summer-Event-Flyer.pdf). Some opportunities featured include: 4-H Summer Camp, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area day camps and family friendly education events, Family Resource Center events for specific age groups, and the variety of classes that CUE has to offer community members.

4-H Summer Camp is open to all youth grades 3-8 (4-H enroll-

ment is not required). The theme of camp this year is Disney Fun! There will be canoeing, hiking, and many crafts. One craft of particular interest is the Wall-E themed recycled craft activity. If you have examples of recycling projects or some clean but interesting looking recyclable items please share them with Beth Johnson, 4-H Youth & Family Development Educator.

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