



Issue 17

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

July 2015

Administration

At the July 20th Administration Committee meeting, they approved a compensation plan for all fulltime exempt and non-exempt positions. For the past several years the County has been involved in evaluating all positions. During this time period Carlson Dettman Consulting provided the service which completed the analysis and the final grade order listing and pay plan structure.

The end result is a pay plan matrix that includes an annual six step process up to the control point. Raises thereafter, and up to 120% of the control point,

would be approved on an across the board basis during the annual budget process, or on an individual basis that includes a change in position description.

Approving the Compensation and Job Grade approval will allow for the increases to be included into the budget process for 2016. For 2016, the cost of implementation is \$19,828. For 2017 and 2018, the projected costs to continue moving employees through the steps are \$13,565 and \$8,679 respectively.

I encourage all staff to review the documents that were sub-

mitted and approved at the July 20th Administration Committee meeting. As discussed at the County's Workplace Enhancement (WE) Committee meeting, staff is encouraged to set up a meeting with Nate if they have any questions as well as to better understand where your position is on the pay matrix.

Emergency Management

Beginning in August, the Village of Grantsburg will start a series of exercises that will test their ability to respond to, and recover from, a catastrophic tornado. Initially, the exercises will be tabletop discussions that will focus on specific response objectives that will be critical during the first hours of the event, such as search and rescue, communication, resource management, command and control,

sheltering and perimeter security.

In the fall, functional exercises will be conducted that will involve setting up communications systems, conducting news briefings and managing a resource staging area.

The series will culminate in the spring of 2016 with a 2 day full scale exercise. Day 1 will be a realistic simulation of search and rescue operations involving

fire and EMS personnel operating in the community and demonstrating the tactics and response strategies discussed in earlier exercises.

Simultaneously, the Village will activate and staff its Emergency Operations Center to provide resource support for Incident Command and to prepare for a demonstration of recovery strategies on Day 2 of the full scale exercise.

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Day 2 objectives will focus on a variety of complicated recovery missions; such as volunteer management, damage assessment, donations, re-entry and public information.

The village cannot be expected to handle an event of this magnitude on its own. Mutual aid from surrounding areas and county staff will fill key roles in the village's Command and Control structure.

A catastrophic tornado in Burnett County is an event of high risk and high vulnerability. Advance planning and training is critical to prepare the whole community for such an event.

Land and Water Conservation

The Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has a very active and extensive Aquatic Invasive Species Program, which was awarded another grant from the WI DNR AIS Control Grant Program. The AIS program is used to financially sustain numerous efforts, such as "Clean Boats, Clean Waters", aquatic invasive species monitoring, Bait Shop Initiative, phragmites monitoring, and aquatic plant management plans.

One of the bigger focuses of the county is "Clean Boats, Clean Waters", which is a statewide initiative to educate boaters on the threats of invasive species. The County has hired 4 interns to help monitor and control the spread of aquatic invasive species at public boat landings. Monitoring is strategically planned to cover the county as well as stationing someone at lakes with known infestations.

Burnett County also does a lot of work with purple loosestrife (PLS), an invasive wetland plant. We control this species through herbicide treatment and

biocontrol, using *Galerucella* beetles, a species that feeds only on PLS. These beetles are raised in mass rearing cages and distributed near large stands of PLS throughout the county. Burnett County works in cooperation with Crex Meadows, the St. Croix Tribe, and many lake associations on this project.

Burnett County also works towards successful management of aquatic plants, which is often done through the process of an aquatic plant management plan. These are extensive plans written for a lake association to help them

better understand and be better equipped to manage their natural resource. Aquatic plants are also managed through the State's Early Detection Monitoring Program, another project

Burnett County is participating in. This program surveys specific lakes for water quality, water clarity, and susceptibility to the introduction of an invasive species, as well as surveying for any invasive species already present.

Other programs Burnett County participates in are the Bait Shop Initiative and phragmites monitoring. The Bait Shop Initiative educates bait shop owners and

employees on the laws and risks of invasive species so they can educate their customers, as well as giving them educational incentives. Phragmites monitoring is a countywide undertaking

that monitors and documents any stand of phragmites in the county, while also determining if it is the native or invasive species of phragmites.



Purple loosestrife

Health & Human Services

Because summer is now officially here, Burnett County DHHS- Public Health is taking the initiative to remind people about proper sun and water safety. Summer is a great time to go outside and enjoy the sunshine or take a swim, but there are a few things people should do to protect themselves from damaging ultraviolet rays, recreational water illnesses, and drowning. Burnett County Public Health provided the Grantsburg Pool with posters to hang in the locker rooms that offer simple steps to reduce recreational water illnesses, such as cryptosporidium. This parasite is hard to kill with chlorine and can remain in the pool for days. Cryptosporidium causes about half of all recreational water illnesses.

Follow these easy steps for healthy swimming:

1. Stay out of the water if you have diarrhea.
2. Shower before you get in the

water.

3. Don't pee or poop in the water.
4. Don't swallow the water.
5. Take kids out of the pool every hour for a bathroom break, and check diapers often.

Burnett County Public Health also provided brochures about sun protection to the Grants-



burg Pool. There are nearly 5 million people treated for skin cancer in the US each year. Skin cancer can be serious, and even deadly, so it is essential for people to

protect themselves from the sun's damaging rays. Remember to cover up, wear a hat, seek shade, wear sunglasses, and rub on sunscreen every time you go outside.

See the display board by the entrance of the Burnett County Government Center for tips on how to protect yourself from the sun and for information about indoor tanning and water

safety. Also check out Burnett County Public Health's Facebook page for further information on sun and water safety.

Every 3 years, we are required to have a County Plan on Aging. We are starting this process now with the draft due by September 1, 2015. The plan uses the SMART Goal Component; **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**esults-based and **T**ime-bound. We have required focus areas for these goals including the Elderly Nutrition Program, Caregiver Services, Services to People with Dementia, and Healthy Aging. We are currently looking for input from our governing boards, aging advisory committees as well as the general public. If you have any suggestions or comments on what you would like to see in Burnett County when it comes to our aging population, please call Laura Neve or Dawn Sargent.

IT Department

Some of you may have heard about Microsoft's new operating system Windows 10. If you have Windows 7 or higher at home you have probably seen a new icon on the bottom of your screen asking you to reserve your free copy.

Windows 10 is going to be more of a mix between Windows 7 and Windows 8. Really it is what Windows 8 should have been. If you are using a desktop or laptop it will look more like a Windows 7 interface. If you have a tablet, it will look more like the Windows 8 Metro interface with tiles. Or if you have a hybrid it will switch between

modes when you attach a keyboard.

Microsoft will be giving away Windows 10 for free to all users with a legal copy of Windows 7 or Windows 8. It will be free to download and upgrade for one year, after that it would cost \$100 or more depending on the version. I would recommend all home users consider upgrading to the new version before July next year when the free offer expires.

At Burnett County the free upgrade will give us the opportunity to get all of our computers on the same Windows version. We have had a mix of Windows

XP and Windows 7 over the last 5 years. If we had not avoided Vista, Windows 8, and Windows 8.1, we would have had a mix of 5 desktop operating systems within our environment. Since we buy the operating system with the computer we end up waiting 5 years to upgrade a computer to the latest version.

The free offer changes that dynamic for us. It will be difficult to get everyone's computer upgraded to Windows 10 within one year. But in the end having everyone on the same version of Windows should be worth the effort.

Maintenance and Grounds

One of the common summertime complaints here at the Government Center is the diversity of the air conditioning throughout the building. Again, the answer is - it is mostly a design issue.

Unlike with the heating system where there are various offices grouped together to make heat zones, the entire first floor's air conditioning is in one control zone, and the entire second floor is in another zone. In our case, our system's cooling is based on averages of returned circulated air. One of the biggest problems is the south facing warmer side

of the building and the cooler north side of the building.

Just to illustrate that point, let's use this exaggerated example: if half of the building's return air flow is 80°F from the sunny side and the other half of the building's return air flow is 70°F from the shady side, the control system senses the average temperature, which would be 75°F. Throw in the variables of the outside weather, the number of people in the building, the outside humidity levels, the individual differences of people, such as activity levels, weight, dress, and a hundred other

things, the result is that no one is going to be comfortable all of the time.

What can be done to help the situation on extremely hot days? If you are on the sunny side of the building close your window blinds to keep the solar heat out. Also, keep your windows closed. With a positive pressure mechanical ventilation system, an open window exhausts conditioned air out, which has to be made back up by drawing in more unconditioned air. This uses more energy, makes things tougher for the system to

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overcome, and takes longer to achieve the set point. Finally, if you are on the shady side, have something warm to wear.

We try to have the system set for the best, but occasionally,

there are equipment problems, an unexpected number of people in the building, or drastic swings in the outside air temperature that cause problems. So, if you feel something is not right, it is still a good idea to let us know, so that it can be checked out.

The good news is that because the basement is split into three zones, and the sun has little impact due to few windows, we have better control there.

Sheriff's Office

It has been a very busy summer here at the Sheriff's Office. We have hired two part-time recreation officers to patrol the ATV trails and lakes this year; they are Deputy Lizz Berres and Deputy Travis Murphy. Both officers have been going through a training process and have already hit the trails.

We have been making progress in our burglary investigations in the lakes regions of the county and several of the bad boys have been arrested and are in custody or out on bond. Hopefully this will slow the thefts that have occurred in that area.

Scams are always a problem. We still get reports of internet scams, phone scams, and mail scams. Just remember if it is too good to be true then it is. You will get ripped off if you respond to these requests. The target area are the elderly in our community so be aware and vigilant with your clients or relatives. Roofing scams and blacktop scams are in area

counties; I am not aware of any reports in our county as of yet.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 4th at Crooked Lake Park in Siren from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Bring your kids and your appetite for some fun at the park.

The following is a press release from the US Attorney's Office in Madison:

WEBSTER MAN CHARGED WITH METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Adam Evans, 26, Webster, Wis., is charged with conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and to possess methamphetamine with the intent to distribute. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy operated from November 2014 to March 30, 2015.

If convicted, Evans faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. The charge

against him is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; Polk, Burnett, and Washburn County Sheriffs' Departments, and the St. Croix Tribal Police Department. The prosecution of this case will be handled by Associate United States Attorney Jeffrey Anderson.

As you can see, our officers have been very busy working successfully with other agencies in combating the distribution and use of illegal drugs in our county. Methamphetamine is the driving force behind the burglaries in our county. This drug is also responsible for many other problems we deal with in our communities. The above case is only one example of cases we have been working on this year.

University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

Spring was a busy time for the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP). Lessons were finalized to complete the requirements of the 2015 grant with all three county schools before children were out for summer break.

A new program, partnering with Crex Meadows "Little

Wildlifera", is beginning this summer. WNEP will be coordinating food samples with the lesson plan.

The Nutrition Program lessons for the 2016 grant year will have new formatting. A series of no less than 5 lessons per grade will be scheduled within 3 weeks after the previous lesson.

This change is based on research that shows children have better knowledge and behavior change around food choices when taught a longer series of lessons and during a shorter timeframe. New curriculum will be implemented for the 2016 grant year, which starts Oct 1, 2015.

Zoning/Land Information

Property owners are now receiving their POWTS (Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System) maintenance cards in the mail. 6,220 cards were sent out to those who are due to

have their system inspected/serviced.

The Wisconsin budget was signed, which included language that makes changes to

shoreland zoning within Burnett County. We are waiting for guidance to determine the exact changes; look for specific information in future newsletters.
