



Issue 25

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

April 2016

Administration

On April 22, 2016 the County Board was invited to a meeting with the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. This historic meeting was, to my knowledge, the first time our two governing bodies have held a joint meeting.

Held at the Danbury Casino, the County Board was provided with an update on Tribal economic development projects, and were given a tour of the Fishery.

While the Tribal Council continues to move forward with economic development activi-

ties, it is the desire of Burnett County to be a partner and assist where we are able.

On behalf of Burnett County, I thank the St. Croix Chippewa Indians for their hospitality and warm welcome. We look forward to a positive and productive relationship.

In other business, the County continues to move forward on multiple fronts. This summer the County will continue to invest in road infrastructure and will be spending roughly \$1 million dollars on several segments of County Roads.

At the April 19th County Board meeting the Board took final action to approve moving forward with a new County Highway and Forestry Facility by awarding the construction contract to Market and Johnson, Inc. and approved issuing debt through Bremer Bank in the amount of \$5 million dollars for the project. The County is planning a ground breaking ceremony for May 11th. Watch for details as this event approaches.

- Nate

Health & Human Services

National Child Abuse

Prevention Month

The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Throughout the Government Center, displays have been established highlighting child abuse awareness. Wisconsin's current campaign, "Say Something, Do Something for Kids", is one effort to recognize that every child deserves a safe, stable and nurturing environment.

Wisconsin has expressed a commitment in the "Say Something, Do Something for Kids" campaign to address child abuse prevention efforts and recognize that children are the foundation of our future. Focusing efforts on prevention results in better childhoods, healthier families and stronger communities.

The Children and Families Unit would encourage you to be a part of the "Say Something, Do

Something for Kids" campaign. Reporting suspected or known child abuse is an act that may help prevent a child from being harmed or from further harm continuing. A report of suspected or concerned child abuse can be made by anyone. The Children and Families Unit can be reached at (715)349-7600, during our regular business hours. *(Continued on Page 2)*

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If there are after hours concerns, an on-call social worker can be reached through the Burnett County Sheriff's Department.

We would also encourage you to participate in prevention efforts occurring throughout the community. Agencies such as CRA, Restorative Justice, and the Burnett County Family Resource Center, to name a few, are all offering services and support to families as well as outreach to the greater community in an effort to prevent child abuse.

STD Awareness Month

April is also STD Awareness Month, and Burnett County DHHS-Public Health is supporting the national "Get Yourself Tested" campaign. There are nearly 30,000 new sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) occurring in Wisconsin each year. **One in two sexually active young people will get an STD by the age of 25, and most won't know it.** The majority of STDs do not cause symptoms, yet they can lead to serious health effects like pelvic inflammatory disease and

infertility. That is why it is so important for all sexually active young people to be tested for STDs annually.

Burnett County Public Health is required by law to make attempts to contact every individual who tests positive for reportable communicable diseases, including STDs such as Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Public Health Nurses do their best to ensure that everyone who may have been exposed to a known case of Chlamydia or Gonorrhea is notified so they can be appropriately tested and treated. During these disease investigations, Public Health Nurses educate individuals on prevention of STDs and on cancer preventing vaccines, like HPV.

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is the most common STD in the US. Almost all sexually active men and women will get it at some point in their lives. HPV usually has no symptoms, but there are some types that can cause genital warts and **cancer**. The good news is that there is a vaccine that prevents against HPV and its related health problems. The vaccine protects against the strains of HPV that cause 80% of all cervical cancers and 90% of all genital warts. **This is the first, and only, cancer preventing vaccine!** It is recommended

for all girls and boys ages 11-12, but it may be given up to age 26. HPV vaccine produces a higher immune response in preteens than it does in older teens and young adults, which is why it is recommended at an early age before sexual activity begins.

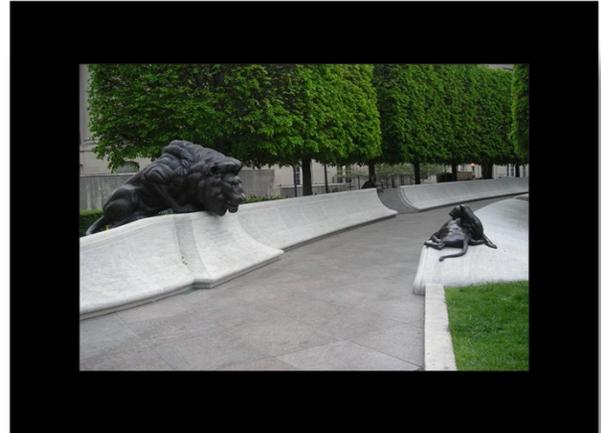
Unfortunately, HPV vaccination rates among Burnett County citizens are very low, with only 17% of young adults completing the three dose vaccine series. This is far lower than the national average of about 28% and the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80% coverage. For these reasons, Burnett County Public Health is making HPV vaccination a focus in the coming year.



Sheriff's Office

The week of May 15th represents National Police Week across the United States and as I write this, there have already been 30 U.S. law enforcement officers killed in the line-of-duty this year. Right now, there is an engraver in Washington D.C. adding another 128 names of the officers that gave the ultimate sacrifice in 2015 to the memorial wall.

Pictured left, "The Guardians", watch over the officer's memorial with strength, courage and valor as they, the fallen officers, watched over their communities during their service.



April 19, 2016 marked the 25th year since we lost Burnett County Sheriff's Deputy Allen Albee to gunfire in Webster, WI. The same altercation left Polk County Deputy Michael Seversen shot and paralyzed from the neck down and ultimately led to his death 23 years later due to medical complications. Allen left behind a wife, two children and a law enforcement family that will never forget him. Michael continued to serve his community, becoming an inspiration for many until his death on April 14, 2014.



Allen A. Albee



Paul R. Gramer



Richard F. Schinzing

We also remember Paul Robert Gramer who died November 20, 1968 when a vehicle collided with his patrol vehicle head on and Richard Floyd Schinzing who suffered a fatal heart attack on October 17, 1974 while struggling with a suspect after responding to a disturbance at a local tavern. Both Paul and Richard's legacies have continued through their sons, who followed in their footsteps, serving the citizens of Burnett County as law enforcement professionals.

Please join us **THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016 at NOON** on the steps of the Burnett County Government Center as we remember and honor our fallen heroes.

"In Valor there is Hope" ~Tacitus

University of Wisconsin—Extension and Tourism

Raising A Thinking Child: The I Can Problem Solve Approach for Parents and Caregivers of Children Ages 4-7

Eight (8) parents completed eight (8) learning sessions in spring 2016. This comprised 8 households in Burnett County with a combined total of 13 children.

Parents of children ages 4-7 gathered at the Grantsburg Elementary School on Monday evenings. They learned new ways to interact with their children to solve problems and understand other people's views and feelings.

As a result, the skills children learned can prevent and reduce challenging behaviors that predict later problems such as violence, abuse and depression.

Raising a Thinking Child (RTC) is an evidence-based program that uses the "I Can Problem Solve" approach. The lessons give parents hands-on tools to move beyond demands,

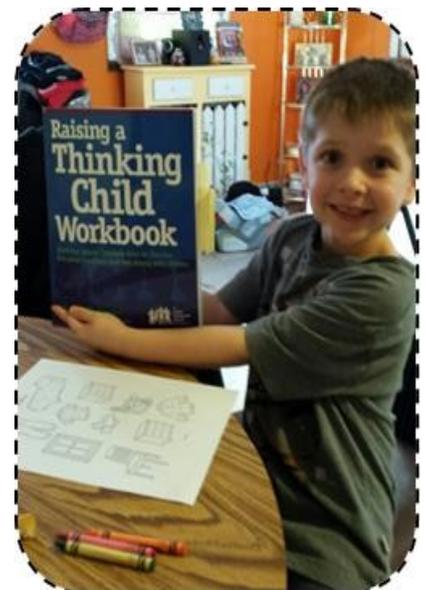
punishment, repeated explanations and frustration, to a two-way problem-solving dialogue with their children age 4-7.

The UW-Extension is committed to bringing the most effective programs to families in Burnett County. This program was coordinated by Beth Rank, 4-H/ Youth & Family Development Educator.

Funds were provided by Burnett County Health and Human Services to stimulate participation, supply workbooks, offer quality childcare, and provide dinner. Burnett County Family Resource Center staff provided the childcare.

Here Are Some Comments from Raising A Thinking Child Participants:

- *"I approach parenting differently now."*
- *"We are now spending more time together".*
- *"It changed the way I talked to my daughter when she would do something she was not supposed to do."*
- *"Less yelling, more thinking of actions which led up to problem/issue at hand."*
- *"We play games more often."*
- *"I have learned a better understanding from my child's point of view."*



Veterans' Services

Court Decision: On Friday, April 8, 2016, the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims unanimously ruled that the VA has shortchanged veterans since 2009 regarding payment of emergency medical expenses not covered by insurance. Since 2009, VA has consistently denied payment of non-VA emergency care bills when the veteran had other Health Insurance, including Medicare. In the denials, VA indicates that it could only be a sole payer and not pay partial bills not covered by health insurance. For example, if veteran had Medicare,

which paid 80%, the VA would deny payment of the remaining 20%. The court ruled that the VA's reimbursement regulation became "wholly inconsistent" with the governing statute when Congress amended it in 2009, but thereafter the VA unlawfully "declined to remedy this inconsistency."

"This is a major win for veterans and their families" said Bart Stichman of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. This practice has violated federal law, at least since 2009. The ruling means the VA will

have to amend its unlawful regulations that should have been amended in 2009 and do right by the affected veterans. Veterans with pending claims for reimbursement will benefit. Also, veterans whose requests were turned down years ago may now be able to get paid by claiming that the previous denial contained "clear and unmistakable error." Veterans should contact their CVSO with questions.

The County Veterans Service Officer can assist you.

May

- 6th Nurses Day
- 7th Unconditional Surrender German Forces
- 7th Vietnam War Ends (1975)
- 8th Victory in Europe Day (1945)
- 13th Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 15th Peace Officer's Memorial Day
- *Armed Forces Day – 3rd Saturday
- *Memorial Day Last Monday until sunset



www.myhealth.va.gov

June

- 6th D-Day, Operation Overlord (1944)
- 14th Flag Day, Army Day (1775)
- 22nd Pledge of Allegiance Recognized (1942)
- 22nd GI Bill signed (1946)
- 25th Korean War began (1950)
- 28th WWI ends (1919)

Forestry and Parks

The long, long wait for the completion of the DNR land trade has finally come to an end. As of January 1, 2016, Burnett County took over ownership of approximately 5675 acres of state owned property. In return, we traded the state a number of acres north of Crex, and the Namekagon Barrens, as well as received a cash payment from the state. The newly acquired properties are located throughout the county, but the largest acreage is associated with the Danbury Wildlife area in the Towns of Swiss and Oakland, portion of Amsterdam Sloughs in the Towns of Meenon, Siren and Daniels, the Keizer Wildlife Area in the Town of Jackson, some acres on the east side of Crex in the Town of Lincoln and a forty acre parcel in the Town of Rusk.

Currently we are working on adding these properties to our County Forest System where they will be managed with our other county forest acres under County Forest Law, State Statute 28.11. We are assessing these properties and updating inventory to ensure that we have accurate information as it pertains the timber types, ages and acres. We will soon be establishing timbers sales, looking at possible planting sites, and considering other potential recreation opportunities on these properties. We are currently looking into the possibility of a mountain bike trail system on the Keizer property in cooperation with our local user groups and interested citizens, as they have already approached the Natural Resources Committee asking for this consideration.

Overall it is expected that these properties will see little change to their access and current uses with the exception of the current request for a mountain bike trail. Many of our existing snowmobile and winter ATV trails are currently located on some of these properties and will remain as is. However, with this acquisition the potential to open some of these current trails for summer ATV/UTV use is being considered and worked on at this time. This would be an upgrade to our summer trail system and would provide a safer trail for our users rather than running on Town roads in some locations.

We are excited for the opportunity to manage these new lands and look forward to making sound management decisions that will benefit Burnett County residents and its visitors for many years to come.

Thank you,

Burnett County Forestry Staff



Emergency Management

Floods: Know What to Do



If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

1. Listen to the radio or television for information.
2. Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
3. Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.
4. If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:
 - A. Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
 - B. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
5. If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

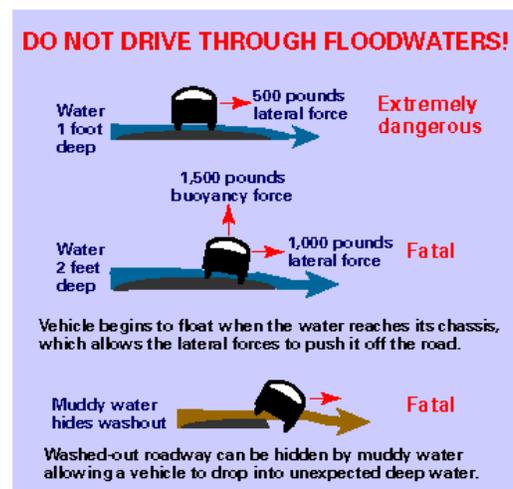
A. Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

B. Do not drive into flooded areas. If flood waters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

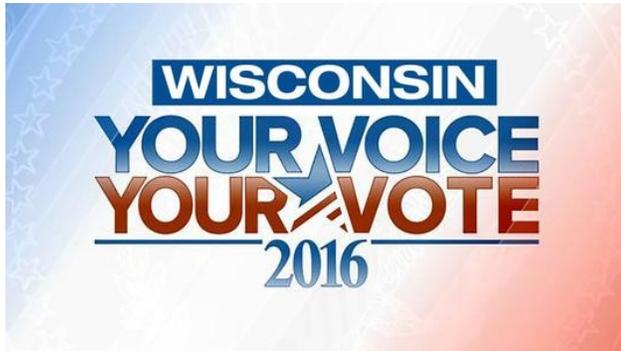
Driving Flood Facts

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

1. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
2. A foot of water will float many vehicles.
3. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups.



County Clerk



With the April 5, 2016, Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election work coming to an end, we prepare for the August 12, 2016, Fall Primary and November 8, 2016, General Election. The fall elections bring about races for partisan offices which will include President and Vice-President of the United States (Nov. election), United States Senator, Representative in Congress District 7, State Senator District 10, Representatives to the Assembly Districts 28, 73 and 75, District Attorney, County Clerk, County Treasurer and Register of Deeds.

If necessary, any of these races (except president and vice-president) could be on the ballot in August to determine the final candidates for the November election.

As the Election Administrator for the county, the county clerk is the official filing officer for county elected positions. This office is also responsible to provide election materials and ballots, coordinate, train and assist the local municipalities with overall election duties.

Each municipality in Burnett County has one polling place where residents of the county cast

their ballot(s) for the candidate(s) of their choice. At the end of the night, a local canvass board of election inspectors at each polling place, counts and determines the number of votes cast for each candidate. Those totals, along with election materials for that election, are brought to the county clerk to be canvassed at the county canvass. The county canvassers review the individual municipal canvass results and vote count to double check for accuracy before the official and final results are determined and certified.

With a four election year, our office is starting the next election work even before the current election at hand is wrapped up with all paperwork and reports filed for the county and state. Along with the work at the county level comes the work of twenty-four municipal clerks carrying out their election duties and the hundreds of dedicated election inspectors in the county working and training throughout the year to make these elections happen. I personally commend and thank these people for their dedication to elections and to helping give everyone who qualifies, a right to cast a ballot and have their vote count.

