



Issue 27

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

June 2016

## Administration

With the start of summer, the warm weather and blue skies can make it difficult to focus. Still, somehow we've managed to have a very productive June in the Administration Department! Among other tasks that were accomplished, the annual audit is occurring and the preliminary budget meetings are set to kick off June 27<sup>th</sup> and will continue through June 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be a very busy time for

Nate and all the Department Heads as they look to the 2017 *and* the 2018 budgets.

Many projects continue to move forward regarding employee satisfaction and retention, updating recruitment efforts, insurance options review, and other policy focused research projects. It is the hope of Administration, that we are keeping pace with other counties and also with how society is evol-

ing in regards the ever elusive work/life balance.

This month I wrapped up my first four months as a Burnett County employee. While I learn and grow in my new position, I invite your ideas and welcome your solutions to things you feel could be improved or implemented.

Have a safe and joyful summer!

*-Jessica*

(AKA, The New Marcy)

## Health & Human Services

Summer is finally here, so Burnett County DHHS- Public Health is taking the initiative to remind people about proper sun, water and food safety. Summer is a great time to go outside and enjoy the sunshine, take a swim, or enjoy a barbeque, but there are a few things people should do to protect themselves from damaging ultraviolet rays, food borne illnesses, recreational water illnesses and drowning.

Every year, there are more than 63,000 new cases of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer,

resulting in nearly 9,000 deaths. Because skin cancer can be serious, and even deadly, 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. Remember to reapply sunscreen after swimming.

Recreational water illnesses are the various illnesses caused by germs that can contaminate water in pools and lakes. When you swim, you share the water with

everyone, and germs are easily spread when swimmers swallow contaminated water (even just a little). Chlorine in pools can take up to a few days to kill certain germs, so take steps to keep pools clean!

- Practice good hygiene by washing hands after using the bathroom or changing a diaper
- Take a shower with soap before swimming.

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Drowning is a leading cause of injury death for children ages 1 to 4. Kids can drown in seconds and in silence. Follow these steps to keep children safe in and around water:

- Make sure everyone knows how to swim
- Wear life jackets appropriately
- Know CPR
- Provide continuous, attentive supervision to children near water

- Prevent access to water by setting up barriers
- Use locks/alarms for windows and doors

Lastly, as you're preparing your outdoor picnics, keep food safety in mind. Warm summer temperatures allow bacteria to grow on food quickly, which can lead to food poisoning. A full cooler holds temperature better than a half-full cooler, so pack plenty of ice! Keep the cooler out of direct sunlight, and don't leave perishable food unrefrigerated or out of the cooler

for more than two hours. Take disposable wet wipes or hand sanitizer with you so you can clean your hands before and after handling food, and as always, never put cooked food a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood.

The display board on the 2nd floor of the Government Center provides tips on how to protect yourself from the sun and for information about indoor tanning and water safety.

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## Please Welcome Lisa and Becky to the Health and Human Services Department!



Being Burnett County's new Foster/ Kinship Care and Day Care Coordinator, I am dedicated to the wellbeing of others. Being native to Wisconsin, I grew up with a fishing pole in my hand and still enjoy the many outdoor activities that change with the seasons. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies as well as paralegal certification from St. Paul's, Hamline University. With 18 years of experience in supporting children and families, my social service extends to foster and adoptive parenting in both St. Croix and Hennepin Counties as well as advocacy for vulnerable adults moving through homelessness, violence and substance addiction at Hennepin County's Harbor Light Center. International travel for Human Rights and Aid Projects in Liberia, Ukraine, and South China extend my knowledge and experience in developing sensitivity to the cultural uniqueness and value of all people groups.. My own joy is to remove barriers and empower traumatized people so that they can heal and develop happy, healthy lives.

**Lisa Rettig**

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My name is Rebekah Root. I am a new Case Manager in the Children and Families Unit for Burnett County HHS. I am from this area, and attended Junior High and High School in Siren. My family had a cranberry marsh in Hertel, WI. I completed my undergraduate degree in psychology at Stout University. After that, I moved to Maui and lived there for 12 years. I attended Argosy University for Marriage and Family Therapy, but moved back to this area before finishing my graduate program. I have worked in several different aspects of mental health, housing, and substance treatment. Upon returning to Wisconsin, I worked in a group living facility, and my last position was as the Child Advocate for Polk, Barron, and Burnett counties via Community Referral Agency. I appreciate a good sense of humor, and I'm very happy to be here.



**Becky Root**

## Land and Water Conservation

### Wild Chervil On the Move

There's another terrestrial invasive that's making its way to our area. As you travel around, road mowing or maintenance, keep an eye out for this plant and let us know if you think you've seen it.

According to Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation biologist and invasive plant expert, Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), is on the move.

This latest ecological threat invades roadsides, open woods, fields and pastures. It is a host to parsnip yellow fleck virus which infects carrots, celery, and parsnips. It has been

planted as an ornamental and is found in some European wildflower seed mixes.

Also known as bur chervil, cow parsley or keck, this invasive has currently been reported in a handful of counties in WI. But closer to home, reports from Chetek, Bloomer, and Polk County are noted.

Wild Chervil is a perennial that has hollow stems covered in soft hairs. Its leaves are alternate, fern-like leaflets which are nearly hairless with the leaf base clasping the stem. White flowers are umbels that are small and 5-petaled, which bloom late May-early July. Each flower

produces 2 shiny, long brown seeds that are joined. A thick taproot with lateral buds can be up to 6' deep.

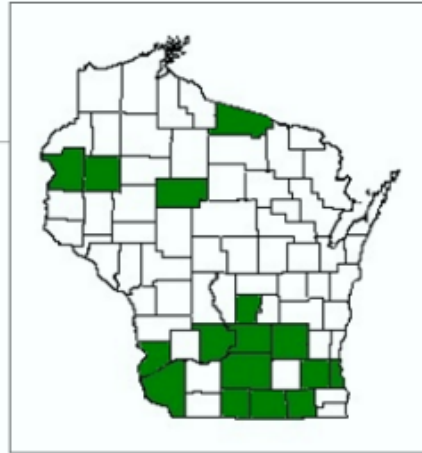




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Control methods include hand pulling or digging up rosettes or small plants ensuring to remove entire root. Repeated mowing throughout growing season will deplete root reserves and prevent seed set. Foliar spray with either clopyralid or dicamba before blooming and one month after a pre-bloom cut can also be used as a method of control.

For more information on control techniques, visit the [Wild Chervil factsheet](#) by University of



Counties in WI where wild chervil has been reported (as of July 2013). Both vouchered and unvouchered reports included.

Wisconsin-Extension.

Wild Chervil is classified as Prohibited/Restricted in Wisconsin because it is likely to survive and spread, potentially causing significant environmental or economic harm or harm to human health.

For more information or to report possible infestations, you can contact the DNR at [invasive.species@wisconsin.gov](mailto:invasive.species@wisconsin.gov), contact Kelly Kearns, WI DNR, 608-267-5066, or the Burnett County LWCD at 715-349-2186.

## Treasurer

Early June the Treasurer's Office sent out postcards reminding property owners that the second installment of their 2015 property taxes is due by July 31, 2016. There are several options for taxpayers to make their payments: in office by check, cash, credit card, electronic check; mail a check; online by credit card or electronic check, access through the Burnett County Treasurer's web page; 1-855-833-4936 for credit cards; or the payment drop box in front of the Government Center.

