



Issue 33

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

December 2016

## Administration

The County Board of Supervisors approved the proposed Employee Recognition Program at their December meeting. Throughout the months' long process, your County Board routinely expressed how much they value the County staff, and how important they feel it is to recognize the efforts

of all Burnett County employees. The Employee Recognition Program consists of two awards: extra PTO days to be used in the calendar year immediately following the achievement of the specified length of service, and a gift card in a tiered monetary amount. If you haven't already, please check

the meeting documents from the December County Board meeting for specifics. Notification will be sent to those staff that will receive their recognition in 2017. Please make sure to thank your County Board for the generous program that they helped create!

-Nate

## Health & Human Services

Health and Human Services wishes everyone a safe and Happy Holiday. However, along with the holiday season comes an increase in alcohol related issues. We would like to remind everyone to make good choices this holiday season.

It is widely known that alcohol use in Wisconsin is a longstanding issue that comes with significant economic and health costs. Along with high use rates are increased incidents of Operated While Intoxicated (OWI) offenses, numbers show an increase in OWI convictions as well as OWI related traffic crashes and deaths. Public outcry for stiffer penalties and restrictions highlights this concern, and courts are taking a

stricter stance on those who disregard the safety of others while sharing the roadway. Because of this epidemic hitting Wisconsin highways, more efforts are in place to prevent needless drinking and driving related incidents. These efforts include using designated drivers, transportation services offered through tavern leagues and education on being more aware as beverages may contain more alcohol than a person is aware of.

### Drunk Driving in Wisconsin is...

#### Prevalent:

There were approximately 24,000 convictions for drunken driving offenses in Wisconsin in 2015.

#### Deadly:

Alcohol-related crashes killed 190 people in Wisconsin and injured nearly 2,900 in 2015.

#### Expensive and Embarrassing:

- If you're arrested, you can lose your license as well as a huge amount of money.
- Repeat drunk driving offenders face imprisonment.
- If you hurt or kill someone in a crash, you could face extremely serious charges like negligent homicide or operating while intoxicated (OWI) causing injury.
- Refuse a blood/breath alcohol concentration (BAC) test and you will lose your license on the spot for at least one year and you may have your car im-

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- Wisconsin laws include mandatory installation of ignition interlock devices on all vehicles owned by anyone convicted of first offense operating while intoxicated (OWI) with an alcohol content of 0.15 or higher as well as second or subsequent offense OWI.
- If you drive drunk with a child under age 16 in the vehicle, the penalties will double.

#### **Entirely preventable:**

- Choose a sober designated driver before you start drinking.
- Rather than risk an arrest, or — even worse — a crash, ask a sober friend to drive you home.
- Save a life - don't let your friends drive drunk.
- Some taverns and restaurants have programs to provide patrons with a safe ride home. Visit [www.tlw.org](http://www.tlw.org).
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement or call 911.

#### **Did you know?**

- A standard drink of 12 fl oz of regular beer contains approximately 5% alcohol, 5 fl oz of wine contains about 12% alcohol, and a 1.5 fl oz shot of distilled spirits contains 40% alcohol. However, some premade drinks have multiple servings. One example is a can of Four Loko which equals around five standard drinks. [Rethinking-drinking.niaaa.nih.gov](http://Rethinking-drinking.niaaa.nih.gov) provides

an easy to use drink calculator. All you need to know is the alcohol content of your drink and the container size to find out the number of standard drinks. This website also contains many other alcohol related calculators and information, such as information on cocktails.

The time it takes alcohol to leave your system will in part be dependent on your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC). The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism defines binge drinking as 4 drinks for women and 5 for men in approximately a 2 hour period, which will bring many people's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to .08 g/dl. (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, n.d.). In general, your liver can metabolize 1 ounce of alcohol per hour or can drop your BAC by .015 per hour. If you have a .08 BAC it can take you almost 6 hours to return to zero.

- Always remember to check the labels of premade drinks so you know how much alcohol you are consuming. Also, make sure to measure drinks made at home. It can be very difficult to make only one standard drink when mixing at home without a measurement device. Finally, many cocktails contain more than one standard drink, depending on how many shots are added and the size of those shots.

Burnett County has an Intoxi-

cated Driver Intervention Program (IDIP) aimed at expediting drunk driving cases to get offenders into the justice system and under court supervision quicker, which in turn will make the roads safer. The overall goal is to reduce future offenses and provide the offenders with an increased awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. There is often a long delay between arrest and entrance into a treatment program. Evidence shows the offender is much less amenable to treatment the longer the delay. We hope that by providing this program, the offender will be more agreeable to looking at their issues and be more open to treatment. To help with the absolute sobriety requirement of the program, clients will have frequent drug testing and breathalyzer tests to determine whether the client is using alcohol or other drugs.

For more information on IDIP please contact Tessa Anderson, IDIP Coordinator @ 715-349-8878.

#### **AODA Resources in**

##### **Burnett County:**

- Aurora Community Counseling: 715-349-7233
- St. Croix Tribal Clinic: 715-349-8554
- Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services: 715-349-7600
- Burnett County 24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-888-636-6655

## Veterans' Services

Things tend to slow down this time of year however, it is worth noting that VA has made a change in how they will charge out-patient medication co-pays. Beginning February 27, 2017, co-pays will be as follows: Tier 1 (Preferred Generics) \$5 for a 30 day or less supply; Tier 2 (Non-Preferred Generics including over the counter medications) \$8 for a 30 day or less supply; and Tier 3 (Brand Name) \$11 for a 30 day or less supply.

Also worth noting is that WI Dept of Veterans Affairs Secre-

tary, John Scocos, has submitted his resignation, effective January 7, 2017. This is a cabinet position and so Governor Walker is in the process of selecting and appointing a new Secretary to move WDVA forward. The Governor has been meeting with representatives from Veteran Service Organizations in order to solicit their input in regards to what they would like to see in the new Secretary. No timeline has been shared.

We continue to receive many inquiries regarding when all veterans will be able to receive an ID card from the VA. We have not heard of nor seen any guidelines from the VA in regards to how and when that will happen. The last official word was that the VA will post something mid to late 2017.

Have questions? Contact Burnett County Veterans Service Office at: 715-349-2179

### January

- 4<sup>th</sup>: First Nat'l Elections (1789)
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Pentagon completed (1943)
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Operation Desert Storm began (1991)
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Vietnam Peace Accord signed (1973)
- 28<sup>th</sup>: U.S Coast Guard established (1915)

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Nat'l Freedom Day
- 8<sup>th</sup>: BSA Founded (1910)
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln's Birthday
- 19<sup>th</sup>: President's Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Washington's Birthday
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: Purple Heart Established (1932)
- 23<sup>rd</sup>: Iwo Jima Flag Raised (1945)
- 27<sup>th</sup>: U.N Victory in Gulf (1991)

## Highway Department

### **New Highway/Forestry Facility Progressing Toward Completion**

Although it may appear to be moving at a snail's pace in comparison to other major building projects in the area, work is progressing steadily on the new Highway/Forestry facility. Construction started back in early June and is scheduled to be substantially complete in March of 2017, barring any delays. For

the most part, things have been moving smoothly with no major bumps in the road, however, two work items have caused delays which have been noticed by many passersby. The precast concrete wall panels that make up the building's shell were delayed due to production issues at the concrete plant in Elk River, MN. This was completely beyond the County's control and will add no additional cost for the County. The second delay,

which is still pushing the schedule back slightly, is the roofing construction. This work requires certain weather conditions in order to properly complete the installation of the rubber roofing membrane.

The contractor is providing temporary lighting and heat inside the building at their own expense in order to progress with construction inside the facility.

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Current view of the building from the southeast looking northwest.

The reason for the heating is self-explanatory. The lights are on 24/7 as more of a theft and vandalism deterrent.

The new facility was positioned to the north of the existing facility in part to allow the highway department to continue with its operations during construction with as little impact as possible. Temporary plastic sheeting enclosures have been installed in each window and door opening in order to keep heat inside until

the permanent doors and windows are installed this winter. Preliminary design options had the new facility being constructed over the footprint of the old facility which would have created a major operational disruption to the department.

It's also worth noting that a secure storage area for the Sheriff's Department is also being constructed just north of the new facility as part of this project. This is where the Sheriff's Department will store the vehicles and other items that are currently located in the green space between the Government Center and the Airport.

As mentioned, the project is scheduled to be substantially complete by March. This is the point when the facility is completed to the point where it will

support its intended use. At this time, both departments will begin the process of moving in. Once the highway department has vacated the existing facility, hazardous materials such as asbestos and mercury-containing devices will be removed by a specialty contractor prior to demolition. The main parking lot and a storm water treatment pond will be constructed where the existing building is. Final completion should occur by late spring to early summer of 2017.



Current view of the maintenance and repair

## Register of Deeds

### Local Vital Records Office Statewide Issuance Press Release December 12, 2016

Jeanine Chell, Burnett County Register of Deeds, would like to announce that statewide issuance of vital records becomes effective January 3, 2017. Statewide issuance of vital records allows Register of Deeds offices to issue records of birth, death, marriage, divorce, from all Wisconsin counties, if the records are enabled in the Statewide Vital Records Information System.

Jeanine adds that not all vital records will be eligible for statewide issuance; some small numbers of special service records are excluded. For those that are eligible, not all may be in the system and available for statewide issuance as of January 3, 2017. The State Vital Records Office is working with Register of Deeds offices to develop a process for loading specific vital records on demand until all historic records are converted. Jeanine advises individuals contact their local Register of Deeds office to re-

ceive more information about statewide issuance.

Statewide issuance will aid in providing an easier and more efficient method for serving our customers, as well as provide better access to Wisconsin vital records. Jeanine Chell thanks the public for their support and patience as their office works through the implementation of this new service.

For more information please contact Jeanine Chell at (715)349-2183.

## Treasurer

In January you will see a change in the Treasurer's Office. I will be retiring at the end of December 2016 after working for Burnett County for 34 years, 16 years in the County Clerk's Office and 18 years as County Treasurer. The County Treasurer's Office deals with a lot of people and I have had the pleas-

ure of getting to know county staff, taxpayers, and municipal treasurers and have made many good friends over the years.

On November 8, 2016 Judy Dykstra was elected to be the next Burnett County Treasurer. She will take office the first Monday of January 2017.

I wish Judy and everyone in Burnett County well in your future endeavors.

-Joanne Pahl



## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

Local Tourism Grants are available again in 2017 through the County Tourism Department. Grant applications are due February 1<sup>st</sup> and \$17,500 is available. Contact Mike Kornmann, Community Development Agent, at 715-349-2979 or [mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu) for an application and details. In 2016 Burnett County tourism grants supported the following: Gandy Dancer Fly In/Drive In marketing, Siren auto tour map

and village brochure, Adventure Triathlon marketing, county-wide social media (Burnett County Tourism Coalition), Taste of the Trail marketing, and Grantsburg Destination Signage.

We have a few changes in our office. Beginning January 1, 2017, plat book sales will be available in the County Clerk's office and not in the UWEX office. Plat books can still be purchased through private vendors

including: The Main Store, Log Cabin Store, Inter-County Leader, Big Mike's, Burnett County Sentinel, and Burnett Dairy. Revenue from plat books support 4-H youth programs.

Beginning January 1, 2017, our official office hours will be Monday through Wednesday 8:30-4:30. Educators will be available by appointment, email, and phone, Thursdays and Fridays.

## Forestry and Parks

As the end of the year fast approaches and a new year begins right around the corner, we have been prepping for what we hope will be a successful snowmobiling season. We have been lucky to get some cooler temperatures which have started to freeze our swamps before we get any major snow events. Our club members have been out working to pack these wet areas so they continue to freeze and create safe crossings for our users. With the extended forecast predicting a major snow

event before the holiday season, we are hopeful that we will have our trails open before Christmas. Of course, snowfall amounts will dictate the opening and closing of our trails.

For more information on the opening and closing of our trail systems, you can visit our webpage at the Burnett County website: [www.burnettcounty.com/trails](http://www.burnettcounty.com/trails). Here you can look at the trail update section for current conditions, as well as follow sev-

eral links to much more information including our rules and regulations, maps, registration and pass information, etc. If interested, you can sign up to get text or email notifications when there is a change to our trails conditions, (to sign up, follow the link at the bottom of our trail updates page). This is proving to be a popular feature, as we currently have over 400 people that have signed up for these notifications.

Have a safe & fun riding season!