



Issue 35

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

February 2017

## Administration

We have had many new faces join the Burnett County Team over the last several months and the February Newsletter provides an opportunity to share and review our organization's mission and core values. Our mission is how we define our purpose as an organization and our core values are the principles that guide the work that we do.

*"To Provide Vision and Stewardship"*

With that mission, comes four core values that dictate our behaviors and actions:

**Quality of Life:** We value quality of life meaning friendly communities, wildlife, natural resources, jobs and education.

**Efficiency of Services:** We value services and work to implement them in financially sound ways that affect both the short and long-term financial health of our organization.

**Common Goals:** We reach out, listen, and develop common goals to focus our work and foster community-wide support on issues and programs.

**Value Employees:** Public servants reveal the common good.

At times, it can be difficult to understand how our work has an impact. Our tasks might seem mundane or maybe the stresses of our duties have us overwhelmed. Taking the time to reflect on our mission and core values can help us remember that we each contribute to this complex organization and, that *we* have a *direct* affect on the outcomes and achievements of the organization as a whole.

*-Nate*

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## County Clerk

The New Year brings some staff changes to our office. Deputy County Clerk Judy Dykstra took office as the Burnett County Treasurer the first of the year. Ms. Dykstra had been in the County Clerk's office for over 25 years. I'd like to thank Judy for all the years of dedicated service to our office. Congratulations and best of luck in the years to come as County Treasurer.

Kim Johnson, County Clerk Assistant, has moved to the Dep-

uty County Clerk position replacing Ms. Dykstra in that capacity. Ms. Johnson has been a part of the office since 2005 wearing several hats. We are fortunate to have Ms. Johnson as the new Deputy County Clerk for Burnett County.

With Judy moving on and Kim moving up, we are happy to announce the recent hire of Administrative Assistant Sabrina Naglosky who will fill the open

position that was created. Ms. Naglosky will be a welcomed addition to the office starting March 6, 2017.

You will continue to see Peggy Tolbert on occasion as she has been our part-time Election Specialist since 2011.

Thank you all for your years of service to Burnett County and I am looking forward to many more wonderful years in the Office of the County Clerk.

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# Emergency Management

## Introductions!!

Hi! I'm Jim Tolbert, the new guy in Emergency Management, taking over as Rhonda Reynolds eases out by mid-year. Rhonda is trying her best to train and educate me on the State and Federal acronyms. It is a good challenge for her!

I started in January and have already begun my empire building. Currently, I'm occupying rooms 170, 172 and 196! Just Kidding! My office will be in room 196 when we get everything reorganized. Please stop in and say 'Hi'! While my designated phone extension is 1244, it

is probably easier to reach me via my cell at: 715-222-9376.

## **- Other Topics to Note -**

### SKYWARN 2017

The annual SkyWarn training is free and open to the public. This year it will be Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:30 PM at the new Grantsburg Fire Hall, 206 South Pine, Grantsburg. It is a great experience and we are hoping for a nice crowd for the trainers from the National Weather Service in Duluth.

### LTPO in BC

This acronym will become very familiar this year as we prepare

for the potential of a Long-Term Power Outage in Burnett County, the State of Wisconsin, and/or the Great Plains region of the US and Canada. While we all hope disaster never hits, we recognize that being prepared for something that never happens is better than having a disaster strike without having even thought about it. To that end, plans and exercises have begun to specifically address the unique aspects of this type of a disaster. Stay tuned! You and your department may be tapped to play a role in these activities as we continue through summer.

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**Burnett County Emergency Management and the**

**National Weather Service Presents:**

**SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING**

**March 29, 2017**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

**Grantsburg Fire Hall  
206 South Pine Street,  
Grantsburg, WI  
54840**



The National Weather Service's SkyWarn program provides training to volunteers in the detection and reporting of life-threatening thunderstorms – those that contain large hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes. There are 1,700 SkyWarn spotters across northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin reporting to the Duluth National Weather Service.

**The training is free and open to the general public!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BURNETT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**715-349-2171**

## Forestry and Parks

As many people know, Burnett County is home to an extensive network of ATV and Snowmobile trails. Many of these trails are maintained at a very high level and have extensive infrastructure including: signs, posts, bridges, gravel base, and boardwalks. Thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars are spent maintaining these trail systems and its infrastructure annually, yet one questions surrounds these maintenance funds...“Where do the funds come from?”

The Recreation Coordinator with the Forest and Parks Department works with the WI DNR Grants Program and applies for these maintenance and development grants every year for our Snowmobile and ATV trail systems. These grants cover 100% of the project costs, with the exception of some per-

sonnel time for writing and administering approved grants.

The real question is, where do the funds for these grant programs come from? Well, they are funded directly by the trail users themselves. All snowmobiles and UTV's/ATV's are required to be registered, and in some cases, they are also required to purchase an annual trails pass in order to ride the state funded trail systems.

These registration and trail pass fees are the funding sources for the grant programs that we use to maintain and upgrade our trail systems.

When we receive our annual maintenance grants or special project grants, we work directly with our local snowmobile and ATV clubs, our County Highway Department, and a number of different private contractors to complete these different pro-

jects. We follow the WI DNR guidelines on trail development, maintenance and infrastructure requirements.

Our goal is to continue to have a safe network of snowmobile and ATV trails in Burnett County that will contribute to the overall success of local businesses, provide good access for our residents and secondary land owners, and make Burnett County successful as a whole, all while balancing the many different user groups of our forest.

If you have questions relating to the grant programs used on our trails or about our recreation trail systems, feel free to contact us at the Forest & Parks Department at (715) 349-2157, or visit the Forest & Parks Department web page at [www.burnettcounty.com](http://www.burnettcounty.com)

## Health & Human Services

February is American Heart Month. Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services - Public Health, is encouraging public awareness of the risk factors for heart disease and stroke. There are a number of risk factors that you can control, including:

**SMOKING:** Smoking cigarettes puts you at a much greater risk for heart attack, and it's the sin-

gle greatest cause of preventable death in the United States. Constant exposure to other people's tobacco smoke also increases your risk, even if you don't smoke. If you're a woman who uses birth control pills and you smoke, your risk is even higher. The bottom line? If you don't smoke, don't start. And if you do smoke, quit! When you stop

smoking, no matter how long or how much you've smoked, your risk of heart attack drops.



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**HIGH CHOLESTEROL:** Know your numbers to know your risk. A simple blood test can show if your blood cholesterol level is desirable, borderline-high, or high.

**HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE:** Have your blood pressure checked each time you visit your doctor. High blood pressure is often called the “silent killer” because it has no symptoms. People with high blood pressure are 4 times more likely to die from a stroke and 3 times more likely to die from heart disease, compared to those with normal blood pressure.

**SODIUM INTAKE:** Consuming

too much sodium, or salt, increases blood pressure, therefore increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke. About 9 out of 10 Americans eat more salt than is recommended.

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:** Get up and get moving. The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise every week, which equals 30 minutes a day for five days. This could be as simple as taking a brisk walk.

**OBESITY:** Obesity isn’t an appearance issue; it’s a health issue. Obesity is a major health problem for all Americans, including children. Nearly 27% of adults in Wisconsin are obese, and 65% are overweight or

obese. Obesity significantly increases your risk of diabetes, heart disease, and even some cancers.

**DIABETES:** Have your glucose levels checked during annual physical exams. If you are already diabetic, take measures to keep your blood sugar within acceptable limits. Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease or suffer a stroke than people without diabetes.

For more information on heart disease, view our Facebook page, ‘Burnett County Wisconsin Public Health’ or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/>

# Hepatitis C

A rising concern throughout Wisconsin is the increased number of people infected with the Hepatitis C Virus. Specifically in Burnett County, between 2011 and 2015, the number of newly reported Hepatitis C cases increased by 550%. With this in mind, the virus is spread through the blood of an infected person to another person. Currently, the most common means of transmission are through sharing injection drug equipment, needlestick injuries in health care settings, and being born to a mother who has Hepa-

titis C. These however, are not the only means of transmission. A large subpopulation of those infected with the Hepatitis C Virus are individuals born between 1945 and 1965. While the reason of the high number of cases in this group is not entirely known, it is thought to be, in part, due to lack of widespread blood screening before 1992 and before universal precautions were adopted. Even though injection drug users and those born between 1945 and 1965 make up the largest number of Hepatitis C infections, it is

important to remember that anyone who comes in contact with contaminated blood can become infected. It is also important for those in high risk categories and those with potential exposure to get tested.

The Hepatitis C Virus impacts your liver which plays an essential role in digestion and removing toxic substances from your body. Hepatitis C can cause lifelong problems including liver damage, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death! It is also the leading cause for

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Liver transplants in the United States. The majority of infected people do not experience symptoms. When there are symptoms present, most are symptoms similar to other ailments such as fever and fatigue. A simple blood test can determine if you are currently infected. If

infected, there are treatment options available.

To reduce transmission of blood borne communicable diseases, such as Hepatitis C, always remember precautions when dealing with any type of blood spill, including dried blood. Gloves should always be worn and a solution of one (1) part house-

hold bleach to Ten (10) parts water to clean the blood is advised.

For more information view our Hepatitis C videos on "Burnett County Wisconsin Public Health" Facebook Page or visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/index.htm>

## What is Viral Hepatitis?

"Hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis is often caused by a virus. The most common types of viral hepatitis are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.



## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

The first phase of reorganization recommendations were shared by Interim Dean, Karl Martin this month. The recommendations have been developed to address the 8.3% cut in state funding.

With input from the Wisconsin Counties Association and many other key county officials, UW Cooperative Extension will be continuing with the existing single county model but restructuring the positions within the model. With UW Cooperative Extension providing financial support for fewer positions throughout the state, counties will have the option to share positions with other counties. To reduce costs further, county-based positions are recom-

mended to no longer require a master's degree. While in most cases county-based positions could be hired with a bachelor's degree, a master's degree would still be an option if desired.

The other key proposed change would move administration duties currently added to an educator's duties and move them to a full-time Area Extension Director position that would serve multiple counties. This position would be fully funded by Cooperative Extension. The director would be responsible for county contracts, hiring staff, managing relationships with county governments/tribal governments and county-based staff, leverage statewide resources, and develop program priorities with

county/tribal governments. This change would merge existing regional director duties with department head duties. Administrative full-time equivalents would be reduced from 40 to 23.

In other reorganization news, UW Cooperative Extension has implemented a consolidation of its Human Resources department with the Central Office Human Resources Office. This change will reduce staffing and add efficiencies in our hiring processes. The above recommendations will be considered by the Chancellor in conjunction with feedback from county officials. More recommendations will be released in March and April of 2017.

## Veterans' Services

Governor Scott Walker has named Dan Zimmerman, LTC (Ret), USA, as the new Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary. He replaces Secretary Scocos who resigned on January 7th, 2017. Secretary Zimmerman is charged with conducting a complete assessment of Wisconsin's three veteran's homes - located in Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove - and to take any necessary action to correct deficiencies in order to ensure the best possible care and living conditions for our veterans. Secretary Zimmerman has also been directed to establish a positive working relationship with the State Veterans Organizations and to especially re-establish a positive working relationship with the County Veterans Service Officers

Association of WI (CVSOAW) and the state's 72 CVSOs. In order to accomplish that, Secretary Zimmerman has already met with the CVSOAW leadership and plans to continue meeting with the leadership on a regular basis. Additionally, he plans to travel to every county and meet with the CVSO. This first step is at least a step in the right direction.

Veterans Evaluation Services (VES) is a VA contracted service that now schedules approximately 80% of all VA Compensation & Pension (C&P) exams. Many veterans continue to be confused and not very trusting when they receive a call from a VES representative. Also, in most cases, the exam will not be at a VA facility, even though one

might be closer. Because this is a contracted service, exams are scheduled at providers that have entered into an agreement with VES. Also, VES is responsible for payment of the veteran's travel. Bottom line: if a veteran has submitted a claim and receives a call from a VES representative and the veteran is not comfortable with or just is not sure of the legitimacy of the call, they should get a call back number and go to his or her CVSO for assistance in getting it straightened out because the VA Medical Center staff will not be in the loop regarding the requested C&P exam from the VA Benefits Administration.

Questions? Contact Burnett County Veterans Service at 715-349-2179.

### March

- 3rd - Star-Spangled Banner Nat'l Anthem (1931)
- 4th - U.S. Constitution Completed (1789)
- 12th - GSA founded (1912)
- 18th - Operation Iraqi Freedom began (2003)
- 29th - WI Vietnam Veterans Day (2009)

### April

- 6th - WWI began (1917 (US))
- 9th - Nat'l Former POW Recognition Day
- 11th - Persian Gulf War Cease Fire (1991)
- 12th - Civil War began
- 22nd - Earth Day
- 23rd - Army Reserve, B-day (1908)

## Zoning/Land Information

The final version of the shoreland ordinance went to the County Board for approval on 2/23/17. Over the next few months we will be looking at other ordinance revisions in Chapter 22 (Floods), Chapter 30 (Land Use) and Chapter 58 (Subdivisions). Most of these future revisions will be minor changes.

**PLSS remonumentation/maintenance update:** The Town of Oakland (T40N-R16W) was just completed. The Town of Webb Lake (T41N-R14W) is about 60% complete. The Town of Anderson - East (T37N-R20W) is about 50% complete.