



Issue 50

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

June 2018

## Administration

The WE Committee held a meeting June 20<sup>th</sup> where members reviewed survey questions from last year's Employee Engagement Survey. The intention of this review was to provide clarity to survey participants in order to gather better survey data each year going forward. Staff will be asked to participate in the 2018 survey in the near future. Please remember that your feedback is important. It provides valuable information about the organization's areas for improvement, as well as our strengths. This will be a useful tool as we look toward developing organizational programming.

Another topic was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Healics screenings that will be occurring this fall in September. Dates will be provided as soon as they are available from Healics with the possibility of Saturday screenings to better accommodate spouses who may have difficulty getting in for their screenings during the week days.

The committee was provided follow up on the recent one-on-one meetings with staff. The meetings went well and majority of staff who participated feel the benefits offered by Burnett County are good. Appreciation for our County Board and satisfac-

tion with the level of support they provide was a theme as well.

The 2019 Budget Guidelines were reviewed. Those guidelines are available to review in Outlook under the Public Folders, can be found in the May County Administration Newsletter, or a copy can be requested from the Administration office.

And finally, beginning in next month's newsletter, new staff will be featured as a way to welcome them to our organization and help everyone keep up with staffing changes.

*- Nate*

## County Clerk

With election time around the corner, AGAIN, we are busy preparing for the August 14, 2018, Fall Primary and November 6, 2018, General Election. The fall elections bring about races for partisan offices including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, United States Senator, Representative in Congress District 7, State Senator District 10, Representatives to the As-

sembly Districts 28, 73 and 75, Burnett County Sheriff and Clerk of Court.

All party candidates for Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Wisconsin Green and Constitution will be on the ballot to determine the final candidates for the November election. Independent candidates are NOT placed on the primary ballot. You will only see those candi-

dates in the November General 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.

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Each municipality in Burnett County has one polling place where residents of the county cast their ballot 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 are reported to the County Clerk the night of the election. Election reports and materials are turned into the County Clerk

to be inspected at the county canvass the following week. The Burnett County Board of Canvas 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 each and every one for their dedication to elections and to their help in giving everyone who qualifies, a right to cast a ballot and have their vote count.

## Emergency Management

### We Had a Disaster & I Missed It!

I want to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to the great team that managed the response for Burnett County - Tammy Chell, Sabrina Naglosky, Mike Hoefs, Allison Fern - and a special THANKS to Siren Police Chief Chris Sybers and Randy Books, Regional WEM Director for guiding the effort in my absence. A number of people contributed a great deal in a timely manner with the result that the County came through it very well. Congratulations and thank you.

The work ahead involves compiling all the paperwork that will determine if we can receive State or Federal financial assistance for the recovery. At

this point, it looks like we are on the ratty edge. The rain on June 15-17, combined with winds - including a possible tornado - caused flooding, washing, and debris resulting in impassible roads and in some cases, significant structure damage to roads. In our County, The Town of Blaine was the hardest hit with at least \$30,000 in road damage detailed so far. The Town of Webb Lake, Sand Lake, and Meenon all had trees down blocking roads. Significant repairs are underway on County Roads and the County trail system.

While a great deal of rain fell in the County, runoff from the watersheds feeding the creeks and rivers that run through Burnett County and a dam fail-

ure on Tamarack Creek caused record breaking flooding. The St. Croix at Danbury crested at over 3 feet high than the previous record. As a precautionary measure, a number of homes along the St Croix were evacuated and HSS staff opened a shelter with the generous support of the Danbury Casino.

A lot of lessons were learned and an After Action Report will be compiled following a Government Center listening session to be announced. Please come or send your comments and suggestions.



# Forestry and Parks

## What's Happening to My Trees?

As many of you know, during this time of year it is easy to see that there is something going on with your trees. Mainly because now that the leaves are fully out you can see that your trees may be under stress, either by leaves turning brown, falling off or maybe they never even showed up! I know this for a fact, because this is the time of year that we get a number of people that walk into our office with a branch from their tree to ask us what's going on. To be honest, in most cases I don't know, and I have to seek the help of, the WI Forest Health website or the DNR Pathologists to try to figure it out.

I can tell you that there are a number of different factors that play a role in tree stress. Insects, disease, and weather are some of the biggest ones, with weather probably playing

the biggest factor. When we have these periods of warm wet weather, it allows for the potential of disease and insect outbreaks in some of our most common tree species in this area. While attending a recent meeting with a DNR Pathologist, the spring weather patterns were discussed and it is believed to be having an impact on people's trees. They are seeing a few new things showing up, which they believe is a combination of weather, insects and disease. An example of this is they are seeing Bur Oak Dieback, which is new to this area. In this case, on the upper branches of these oak, the top 1-2 feet are dead. They have seen Winter Drying kill some pine and spruce. This is due to the ground still being froze when the outside temps are hitting 75-80 degrees. The trees start to try to grow with the warm temps using up all their reserves and are unable to collect nutrients due to the

fact the roots are still frozen.

These are a couple of examples of the things that are going on in the area. If you are seeing issues with your trees and would like to try to figure out what is going on, I would suggest visiting the WI DNR Forest Health web page at the following address, [www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth). You can find information on current issues in the area and what you might be able to do to help your trees. They also have options for sending samples of your tree to a lab to be tested if you wish.

Tree mortality in our older, mature trees is a very common issue in our forests. This is one of many reasons why forest management is so important. It allows us to work towards regenerating our forests to keep a younger healthy forest growing.

Secure | <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/>

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### Forest health

**Read** Wisconsin DNR forest health news.

**Know** the firewood rules before you move wood for winter heating.

**Find help** for sick or dying trees.

Everyone can help keep Wisconsin forests healthy, from watching for threats to practicing sustainable forestry. Learn how to help by reading about the location, identification, signs and symptoms, management and prevention of many insects, diseases and invasive plants that threaten our trees. Then use what you've learned to help protect healthy forests and all the benefits they provide us.

**Subscribe to forestry news**

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**Wisconsin DNR Forestry News**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Read all of the latest [forestry news](#) from the Wisconsin DNR.

[How to Identify the Emerald Ash Borer](#)  
YouTube

## Treasurer

Our office has moved! We are now located in Room 170 of the Burnett County Government Center, which is still on the first floor but located in a different wing. If you choose to pay your taxes in person, enter at the main lobby doors, take a right and we are the first office on the right.

The second installment of 2017 real estate taxes is due to the Burnett County Treasurer by July 31, 2018. Courtesy postcard payment reminders have been mailed to property own-

ers who chose to pay in two installments and timely paid the first installment of taxes. If you did not receive a reminder postcard, contact the county treasurer's office at 715-349-2187 for the amount due. When paying current year taxes in full or in two installments, the first payment was due January 31, 2018; if your first payment is late, you must pay interest on the unpaid portion. This interest goes back to February 1, 2018, and accumulates at the rate of one percent per month.

If you did not receive a reminder postcard, either you paid the taxes in full, the first payment was not received, received late, or an address update is needed. Unfortunately, many mailing pieces are returned undeliverable with no forwarding address available. When moving or changing your mailing address, remember to contact the county Land Services Department directly at 715-349-2109 with this information. Thank you and have a great summer!

## Veterans' Services

Veteran Services is applying to become a partner with the U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration through the Department of Defense. This is a program signed into law in 2012 (10 USC 113 note (Public Law 110-181) Program to Commemorate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War) to officially and

publicly recognize and thank every Vietnam veteran and their surviving spouses/family members by Veterans Day 2025. It is estimated that nationally there are approximately 7 million Vietnam veterans living of the 9 million who served. In Burnett County, we show approx. 600 Vietnam vet-

erans (living and deceased). There will be a Burnett County committee of at least three members, one during which is CVSO Doug Stubbe. Partnership requires a three year commitment of which we will conduct at least two activities / ceremonies each years.

Burnett County Veterans Service  
715-349-2179

### Jul

- 2 U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)
- 4 Independence Day
- 12 Pres Lincoln approves Medal of Honor (1862)
- 25 Dept. of Def created, USAF created (1947)
- 26 Korean War Armistice (1953)
- 27 WWI began (1914)

### Aug

- 1 Air Force Day (1947)
- 2 Operation Desert Shield (1990)
- 4 Coast Guard Day (1790)
- 5 US entry into Vietnam (1964)
- 7 Purple Heart Day (1782)
- 15 Victory over Japan (1945)

*I don't know what I can tell you about the war. It's like all wars I guess. The undertakers are winning it or the politicians are talking about the glory of it and the old men talk about the need of it. The Soldiers, they just want to go home. - Charles Anderson (James Stewart) in "Shenandoah"*

## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism



### Parenting.uwex.edu



If you're a parent, or you know someone who is – check out this great resource!

Where can you go for Trustworthy Resources to Improve the Quality of Family Life? Check out the site: [parenting.uwex.edu](http://parenting.uwex.edu). Loaded with quality resources for **families and professionals** on parenting, healthy relationships, family health, child development, and family caregiving this site was developed by a team of family and parenting specialists at Extension's Human Development and Relationships Institute UWEX Family Living Educators and specialists.

There are two sections: [one for the public](#) (parents and caregivers) and another directed at [Extension educators and other professionals](#). The materials are sorted by age and topic and include external resources curated by Extension educators.

We want these resources to be in the hands of those who can use them – so please bookmark the website for your own use. We'd also appreciate recommending it to others with whom you interact with — both parents and professionals.



#### In other news...

Over the next month, we are looking to collect the data that has already been gathered by county partners. We are hoping to use this information to pull together our work plans for 2019. What are the emerging issues in Burnett County? What does the data show us? If you have access to data that would be helpful for us to use to help determine our next steps – please share with Lori Baltrusis, the Area Extension Director, 715-295-4112 or [lori.baltrusis@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:lori.baltrusis@ces.uwex.edu).

# do 1 thing

SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

## Unique Family Needs



**THE GOAL:** Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.

*Every household is different. Is there an infant or young child in your home? Does someone in your family have a medical condition that requires medication? Do you have a pet? Before disaster strikes, talk to your family about your household's unique needs. Make a list of special items you may need in a disaster.*

▶▶▶ CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH TO BECOME BETTER PREPARED:

- Talk with family members to identify your household's unique needs.**

What kinds of things can members of your household not be without for 72 hours? Here are some examples of things that can create unique needs for your family:

- Infants and young children
- Prescription medication (keep a three day supply with you)
- Health-related supplies (For example, diabetics need insulin syringes, alcohol wipes, and glucometer supplies)
- Assistive devices (glasses, canes, etc.)
- Pets

When you are in a hurry, it is easy to overlook small and important items. Common items like diapers and pet food might not be easy to find right after a disaster. Trying new brands of food or formula, or not having a comfort item, can make disasters more stressful for both children and pets.

Talk to your kids about what to do in a fire, a medical emergency, or a disaster. Make sure they know where emergency supplies are kept, how (and when) to call 911, and who to call if they can't reach you in an emergency.

## **Make a plan to make sure pets are taken care of in a disaster.**

A disaster may happen while you are away from home. Your neighborhood may be evacuated, or you could be trapped somewhere else and unable to get home. Consider asking a trusted neighbor to check on your pets if you can't get home because of a disaster or emergency. You may also ask them to take your pets with them if an evacuation is ordered while you are not home. Make sure they are comfortable with your pet, and that they know where to find leashes and other supplies.

*Remember, pets are not allowed in most emergency shelters. Talk to your local animal control agency or humane society about options for sheltering your pet in a disaster.*

## **If you or someone in your household has a disability, create an evacuation plan that works for them.**

People with disabilities are more affected by disaster than others in the community. Accessible services might not be available. Hazards like wildfire, floods, and hurricanes can lead to evacuations. If you have a disability and you live in an area where these things can happen, make sure you have an evacuation plan:

- Make sure you are signed up for any emergency notification systems your community offers. Some notification systems will only call landline phones. If you use a cell phone, you may have to sign up separately.
- Paratransit services may not be available once a disaster happens. Talk to your paratransit provider now to find out what services they can provide when evacuation is ordered.
- If paratransit services aren't available, arrange for someone else to pick you up if an evacuation is ordered. Make sure they will come for you UNLESS you tell them not to. That way there won't be any confusion when the time comes. If you can't evacuate, call 911 to let them know your location.
- Talk to your local Red Cross chapter or other organizations who provide emergency sheltering in your community. Make sure that your needs can be met in an emergency shelter. Think about accessible entrances and bathrooms. What methods of communicating with shelter staff, medical services or assistive devices will you need? If you have a service animal, talk to them about what they can provide for the animal. Find out what you need to bring with you. Make sure you have batteries or a charger for any assistive devices in your emergency kit.

## Aging and Disability Resource Center

### Leaders Needed!

The ADRC of Northwest Wisconsin provides a number of excellent educational workshops throughout the year. A big component that makes these programs as great as they are, are the program leaders! Some of our leaders are volunteers and some are employees of organizations that we have partnered with to provide the program. They have diverse backgrounds and experiences that add to the credibility and value of the programs.

We are currently searching for individuals interested in volunteering to become a leader; OR organizations interested in partnering to support an employee who might be interested in becoming a leader. We are open to either option and open to partnering with any organization that identifies with the goals and importance of these programs.

We are searching for someone with a healthcare or health and wellness background who is passionate about helping older adults reduce their risk for falling by helping facilitate and co-lead *Stepping On* workshops in the Burnett County area. *Stepping On* is one of the evidence based healthy aging workshops we provide at the ADRC. Within this seven week workshop, participants learn about all areas of fall pre-

vention—strength and balance, medications, vision, community safety, home safety, assistive devices and so much more! You do not need to be an expert in fall prevention but rather have some experience working with older adults and facilitating and speaking in front of small groups. You do have to be kind and patient and have a passion for helping individuals in our communities avoid that one life changing fall! All other training is provided!

We are also in need of a leader or two in the Burnett County area for our *Living Well with Chronic Conditions* workshop. Do you have a chronic health condition? Have you figured out how to successfully manage your condition AND live the life you want to live? Help others do the same! *Living Well* is a 6-week evidence based workshop for adults of all ages with one or more chronic health conditions. Participants learn valuable tools to regain control of their health and wellness and continue or get back to doing the things they enjoy!

Last but not least, we are helping get another workshop going in our area called *Healthy Living with Diabetes*. This is a 6-week workshop, similar to *Living Well with Chronic Conditions*, but is specific to individuals with diabetes. Do you have a healthcare background working with individuals with diabetes? Or do you have diabetes and are successfully managing it, living your life, and doing the things you want to do? Help others do the same by becoming a *Healthy Living with Diabetes* leader!

Want to learn more? Give the ADRC a call at 877-485-2372 and reference the program you are interested in learning more about. If you are interested but don't have a lot of extra time—give us a call at 877-485-2372! We are willing to work with you! Are you from an organization that might be interested in partnering with us, DEFINITELY give us a call at 877-485-2372! Partnerships are the key to sustaining these programs!

**THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF  
IS TO LOSE YOURSELF  
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.**

**GANDHI**