



Issue 08

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

August 2014

Administration

On August 21st the County held a staff and family appreciation picnic. Even though the clouds were present, the rain held off. A big thanks goes out to the Siren Lions Club for cooking and serving the food as well as the County Board and Lounge Committee for funding and organizing the event! For those that were able to come to the picnic I hope you had an enjoyable time.

-Nate



Airport

A new fuel tank will be installed during the period between September 15 and October 21. During this time it would be preferred by the contractors to have as few vehicles parked in the vicinity of the fuel system as possible. Large equipment will be utilized extensively around the system for such operations as setting the tank, fencing and barricade work, concrete work, fuel delivery, etc. As an alterna-

tive it has been recommended that County departmental and fleet vehicles be parked in the gravel overflow parking lot across Co. Rd. K from the main paved parking area. If this will not work for any reason, please contact the Airport Manager or Maintenance Supervisor for other accommodations.

During construction, the County fleet pump will be operational

the vast majority of the time. Short, temporary outages and down time will however be inevitable. Notice of these outages will be given as soon as they are scheduled.

Please contact the Airport Manager with any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.

County Clerk

It's election time again and the office has been quite busy with trainings, ballot production, election preparation and of course, the partisan primary itself, which was held August 12, 2014.

With the Republican primary for the local sheriff's race between Ron Wilhelm and Chris Sybers, our office expected a higher than the predicted state

average voter turnout of only 15%. Burnett County came in at 22% overall average turnout for eligible voters and a 29% average turnout for registered voters. (Actual state final statistics are not available at this time.)

The next election for Wisconsin voters will be the November 4, 2014, General Election for which I am predicting a 30-35% turnout for eligible voters and 40%

county average for registered voters.

I hope to see these predictions hold up in Burnett County knowing how important it is to have a voice in electing qualified people to represent us at the local, state and federal levels. See you all at the polls in November.

BURNETT COUNTY, WISCONSIN
2014 Fall Partisan Primary Election
August 12, 2014

Burnett County, Wisconsin
 Unofficial Election Night Totals

Election Night Voting Statistics and Outstanding Ballot Count								
MUNICIPALITY	Voters	Residents 18 and Older - 2010 Census	Eligible Percent Voting	Registered Voters 08/05/14	Registered Percent Voting	Military Absentee Ballots Not Returned	Absentee Ballots Not Returned	Provisional Ballots
T. Anderson	72	307	23%	240	30%	0	0	0
T. Blaine	35	166	21%	129	27%	0	0	0
T. Daniels	139	515	27%	419	33%	0	0	0
T. Dewey	55	405	14%	304	18%	0	0	0
T. Grantsburg	172	857	20%	624	28%	0	0	0
T. Jackson	150	691	22%	647	23%	0	0	0
T. LaFollette	95	429	22%	343	28%	0	0	0
T. Lincoln	62	255	24%	184	34%	0	0	0
T. Meenon	191	902	21%	627	30%	0	3	0
T. Oakland	151	702	22%	609	25%	0	0	0
T. Roosevelt	22	162	14%	134	16%	0	0	0
T. Rusk	61	332	18%	259	24%	0	0	0
T. Sand Lake	87	421	21%	318	27%	0	0	0
T. Scott	103	447	23%	441	23%	0	3	0
T. Siren	173	754	23%	575	30%	0	0	0
T. Swiss	111	649	17%	486	23%	0	0	0
T. Trade Lake	138	673	21%	553	25%	0	0	0
T. Union	61	283	22%	218	28%	0	0	0
T. Webb Lake	75	291	26%	326	23%	0	0	0
T. West Marshland	56	278	20%	210	27%	0	0	0
T. Wood River	205	713	29%	599	34%	0	0	0
V. Grantsburg	272	1,026	27%	738	37%	1	2	0
V. Siren	166	622	27%	376	44%	0	0	0
V. Webster	121	495	24%	362	33%	0	0	0
TOTALS	2,773	12,375	22%	9,721	29%	1	8	0

Emergency Management

(Continued from the July newsletter)

As “First Daylight” transitions into Day 1 of the disaster, most of the emergency response agencies that have been active all night have achieved their tactical objectives and are demobilizing. EOC staffing continues to increase as we begin to identify strategic recovery objectives.

The EOC is organized under the Incident Command System. Command and General Staff will meet with the Chief Elected Officials of the affected municipalities and formulate an Incident Action Plan that will direct activities and acquire resources needed during the Day 1 operational period. Many of these recovery activities will continue for days, weeks or months and

require oversight and coordination by the EOC.

Typical Day 1 missions include:

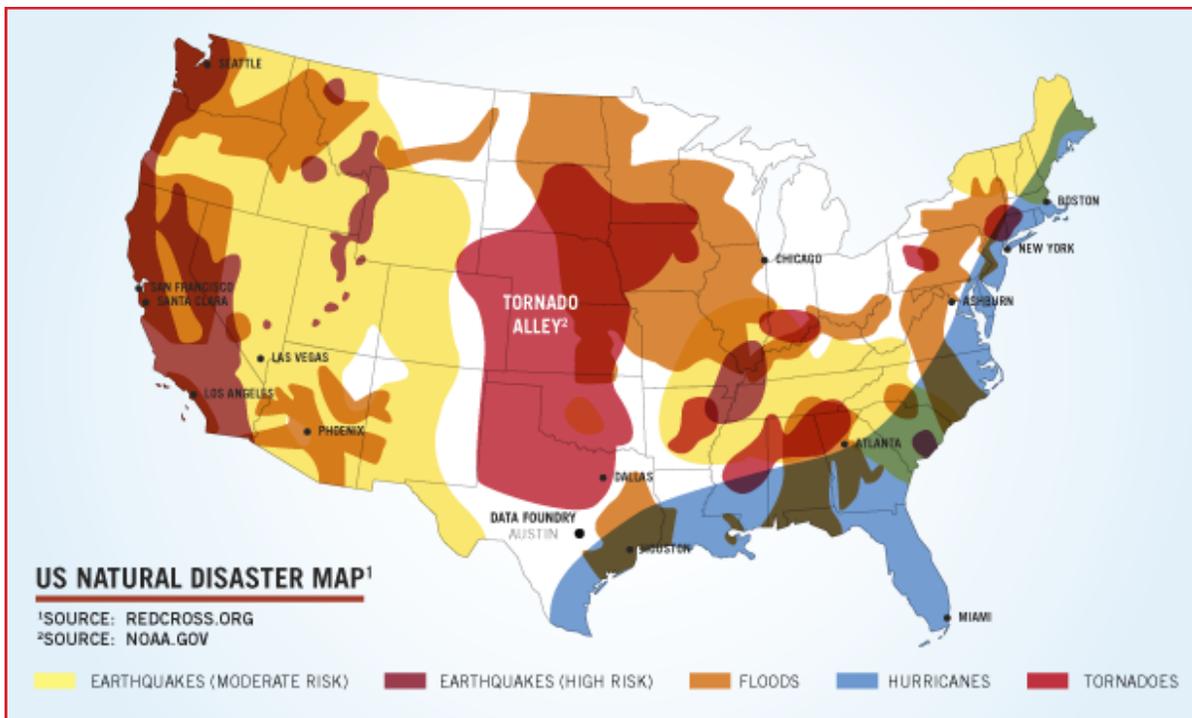
- Perimeter Security – Law enforcement will want to maintain security to protect property and public safety. This will create conflict as residents and business owners are prohibited from unlimited access to their property.
- Human needs – Food, water, shelter and sanitation will be required.
- Public information – Media interest will be high. The EOC will issue press releases, set up media staging areas, conduct briefings and hold public meetings.
- Debris – Movement, storage and disposal of debris will

be a significant expense for each municipality.

- Damage assessment – An extremely important process that will facilitate the rapid determination of whether disaster aid will be available for municipalities.
- Volunteers – The potential for thousands of volunteers anxious to help the community is both good news and bad news. They will be a tremendous help and if properly managed will reduce the costs to the municipality. Volunteers also require a lot of resources and may present a significant risk of liability.

The Burnett EOC will be staffed by county “subject matter experts” that will work to support

the priorities and objectives of the municipal’s elected officials. It will remain open as long as needed. No single municipality can do it alone. By working together we can recover as a community.



Forestry & Parks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Burnett County Forest & Parks staff. For those that may not know who these folks are they are listed below.

- Kari Letch - Bookkeeper (Office, Timber Sale & Grant tracking and all paperwork)
- Mark Diesen - Assistant Forest Administrator (Field Forester)
- Susan Ingalls - Forest Recreation Coordinator (Snowmobile/ATV Trails & Parks)
- Tory Jeske - Forest Technician (Equipment Operator, Forestry & Parks)
- Ed Schmechel - Summer position (Parks)

These are the employees who



Lake 26 Park

do the majority of the work within our parks and our forest. They take pride in serving Burnett County and doing a good job for the public. In my opinion, Burnett County would have a difficult time finding better employees than what the Forest & Parks Department currently has. So next time you see these folks working in the parks or the forest, or you call or stop by the office, I hope you appreciate the high level of service that that you are offered.

The Forest and Parks Department believes in working together to improve and better our communities. We have an open door policy and want to hear your ideas. While we may not always have the money to do some projects, or agree with ideas presented to us, we do care and we do want to continue to hear your ideas and issues. It will only allow us to better serve our communities.



Thoreson American Legion Park



Gandy Dancer Trail



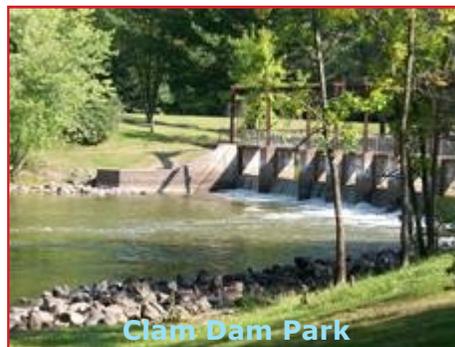
Charles Tollander Park



Milton E. Stellrecht Park



Mel Daniels Park



Clam Dam Park



Burnett County ATV Trail

Land and Water Conservation

The Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) offers a wide array of technical services and financial assistance to county agricultural producers, some of which are: general agronomic advice, planning services, and guidance on land management activities.

Cost share funding from county, state and/or Federal agencies is available to plan, design, and/

or install a wide range of practices such as grazing management plans; nutrient management plans; installation of manure management facilities, and more. LWCD staff also provide direct assistance with agronomic questions related to crops, soils, water quality and water management.

Some of the more recent (and in progress) cost-shared projects

were: \$500,000 for an animal waste management system; nutrient management planning on 2,500 acres (\$70,000 in cost sharing); \$50,000 for a manure pit abandonment; and \$15,000 for heavy use protection in a barnyard. Since 2005, the LWCD has been involved in approximately \$1,000,000 worth of cost-shared agricultural projects in Burnett County.

Maintenance and Grounds

Since the beginning of the original 1996 ten year energy performance contract with Johnson Controls, the Government Center's annual consumption for natural gas has dropped dramatically.

As measured by the number of BTUs used per square foot per degree heating day to heat both

the hot water system and the building's heating plant, the Government Center used about 7.9 BTU/sq ft/degree day prior to the contract. Initially, it slowly dropped to about 5.5 BTU/sq ft/degree day, but these days, we consume about 4.0 BTU/sq ft/degree day. The all time low was in 2009 with 3.71 BTU/sq ft/degree day.

Considering the size of the building (54,000 sq ft), and the number of heating degree days there can be, ranging from 6,666 to 9,150 annually, that is a remarkable reduction in fossil fuel consumption.

We still benefit from that performance and modernization contract to this day.

University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

The Jordan Buck Centennial Extravaganza Banquet is on October 4th at Northwoods Crossing. Tickets are \$35 and available in the UWEX office. Raffle tickets for a 1914 era Winchester rifle and a replica Jordan Buck shoulder mount are also available. The free commemorative guide will be published at the end of the month. If you want to have your picture taken with the buck, stop by the Crex Fall Wildlife Fest on October 4th or

attend the Extravaganza Banquet. Your help in spreading the word about the events and activities is greatly appreciated.

Burnett County Development Association is working on a long term solution to heating fuel supply by working with WE Energies to expand natural gas pipelines in the county. New pipelines are expected in fall 2015 in the Clam Lakes area. Other areas under consideration

are Voyager Village, Yellow Lake/River, and Danbury. The supply of propane this coming winter is likely to be as bad or worse than last year. People are encouraged to expand their propane storage capacity on their own property by adding a second 500 gallon tank or replacing their tank with a 1,000 gallon tank. Storage expansion will help get most of your heating supply delivered before the winter heating season.

Veterans' Services

There are roughly 2,000 veterans living in Burnett County, 12% of the population. During Fiscal Year 2013 (10/2012 - 9/2013) the federal VA paid \$11.26 million in benefits to Burnett County veterans. \$5.12 million was paid directly as compensation or pension; \$5.96 million was paid out in the form of health care while the remainder was paid out in other benefits.

Not every veteran is in receipt of VA benefits. Some choose not to apply for benefits, others, while eligible, are not qualified. Compensation is paid to veterans who served and incurred a disability/injury while on active duty that continues to cause problems after serving. Pension is based on net worth for veterans who served at least one day of active duty (other than training) during a combat era and is

based on the federal poverty rate. VA Health care is for any veteran in receipt of compensation or pension and others based on net worth. Benefits are not paid out to every veteran, despite the fact that they all served this country at one point in their lives.

A primary consideration in determining if a veteran is qualified is character of service (discharge). There are five Characters of Separation from service: Honorable, General, Less Than or Other Than Honorable (L/OTH), Bad Conduct, and Dishonorable. Bad Conduct and Dishonorable are judicial separations. L/OTH can be either administrative or judicial. Most federal benefits are based on Honorable or General service, while most State of WI

benefits are based on Honorable service.

September Dates of Interest

- 1 WWII Ends (1945)
- 5 First Continental Congress (1774)
- 11 Patriot Day (2001)
- 14 Star Spangled Banner (1814)
- 17 Constitution Day (1787)
- 21 POW/MIA Day



Zoning/Land Use

The Zoning/Land Use Department would like to congratulate Jim Flanigan on his retirement. His wealth of experience and knowledge will be missed.

With Jim's retirement we are very busy as this is the active season for the Zoning/Land Use Department. We are down slightly on revenue compared to last year, which is due to the decrease in new dwelling (new home) permits. However with

the severe winter last year we are processing many garage/accessory structure permits. In many cases a garage/accessory permit takes almost as much staff time as a new dwelling permit.

The Land Information/County Surveyor Department has completed parcel mapping for the eastern portion of the Town of Swiss (T41N - R15W). This mapping is now available on the

county mapping/GIS website. The next town for parcel mapping is the Town of Jackson.

Public Land Survey System re-monumentation and maintenance has started in the Town of Lafollette. Once this is complete the Town of Lafollette will be added to the list for parcel mapping. Through June 30th new addresses are up slightly compared to the previous four years.

Finance

It has been a busy time for the Finance Department this summer closing out 2013, maintaining 2014 and creating 2015 budgets. One of our regular monthly transactions involves sales tax. Burnett County receives .005% of the sales tax that is charged on taxable sales in our county. Every month, the Department of Revenue calculates and returns funds to the county based on sales tax reports that are filed with them. State Statute mandates that sales tax revenue must be used to reduce the property tax levy. The attached chart shows sales tax collections returned to Burnett County for multiple years and sales tax dollars used to reduce the tax levy. The last column represents sales tax levy reduction as a percentage of the total levy. If sales tax funding were not available:

*services to the citizens and taxpayers of Burnett County would be reduced by the amount of sales tax used for levy reduction

or

*annual property tax statements (Burnett County portion) would be increased by the percentage indicated to cover services supported by sales tax revenue.

YEAR	COLLECTIONS	LEVY REDUCTION	TOTAL LEVY	% OF TOTAL LEVY
2008	858,402.17	1,100,000	8,052,789	0.14
2009	798,360.83	800,000	8,272,816	0.10
2010	792,835.89	850,000	8,516,423	0.10
2011	822,171.72	750,000	8,516,423	0.09
2012	852,989.75	800,000	8,559,652	0.09
2013	819,409.65	825,000	8,649,342	0.10
2014	854,446.78	ESTIMATE 825,000	9,217,587	0.09