



Issue 28

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

July 2016

Administration

We may only be a little over half way thru 2016, but planning for 2017 is in full swing. In order to properly budget for next year's payroll, pay dates have been set. We will have 3 early pay dates in 2017 due to observance of county approved holidays. Timesheet templates will be updated in the next several weeks, along with the payroll calendar which specifies due dates and times.

Wisconsin Retirement System contribution rates for 2017 were

released in early July. For each of our 3 categories, employee contribution rates are set to increase from 6.6% to 6.8%. The employer paid contribution follows suit for the General & Elected categories, but the Protective category increases from 9.43% to 10.6%. These rates are subject to change, but are helpful when preparing next year's budget.

Administration has been coordinating with WCA Group Health Trust to come up with viable op-

tions to decrease the county's cost of group health insurance. In recent years, health insurance benefits represent approximately 20% of the payroll budget. A representative of GHT attended our July WE Committee meeting to review options and offer suggestions. If you haven't already, please seek out your department's WE Committee representative for details of that discussion!

Rochelle

Aging and Disability Resource Center

What is a Dementia Friendly Community?

Within the next 6-12 months, you will start to hear about the ADRC building a Dementia Friendly Community (DFC). A DFC is a place where individuals with dementia are able to live good lives, have the ability to live as independently as possible, continue to be part of their community, are met with understanding and are given support when necessary.

There will be 8 steps that we will follow to build a Dementia Friendly Community:

1.) Defining the Problem:

What community issues exist related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia? What are the immediate issues and community needs?

2.) Creating a Vision: This step includes a vision and/or mission statement for the initiative that creates the bigger picture of the dementia friendly initiative.

3.) Building a Plan: This step include an assessment of existing resources within a community and the engagement of key leaders, stakeholders and partners to build a plan that is unique to our

community. Some of the stakeholders will be Public Health, Hospitals, Clinics, Libraries, Senior Centers, Businesses, Shops, Banks, etc.

4.) Building a Coalition or Network: This step includes building the community coalition to plan, implement, evaluate and sustain the efforts of a dementia friendly community initiative.

5.) Engaging the Community: We will educate and engage community members through personal stories, events and other communication events.

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6.) Starting Somewhere: We will focus on selecting and implementing activities as first steps to create a dementia friendly initiative. This could be a single project or activity that engages the interest of individuals and organizations and creates a momentum and success for such projects.

7.) Evolving the Initiative: This will emphasize the importance

of evaluating our efforts, adding enhancements and creating opportunities for sustaining a dementia friendly community. What activities are working, what activities are not, what is the next step in moving forward with this initiative?

8.) Sustainability: Some things necessary for sustainability are coalitions, membership diversity, funding, nonprofit status, community awareness, local

business support, communication and marketing, engaging local officials, engaging individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Additionally, we need an active advocate.

The ADRC will be working closely with the Alzheimer's Association on this initiative. If you have any questions or comments regarding this initiative please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

Emergency Management

SUMMER STORM DAMAGES

Summer has finally arrived! So have the thunderstorms and severe weather. It is almost a weekly occurrence to have storms roll through the area and leave behind damage to houses, roads and trees.

The costs incurred by Villages and Towns responding to, and recovering from, these storms can be substantial. The State of Wisconsin established the Wisconsin Disaster Fund (WDF) in 2006 to assist municipalities with recouping public sector costs associated with these natural disasters. The WDF will contribute 70% reimbursement for eligible costs and the local government will pay 30%. To be eligible for the WDF, damages must exceed a per capita threshold for each jurisdic-

tion. For example, The Town of Jackson has a population of 773. The 2016 per capita amount is \$3.57. Therefore, the minimum amount of damages needed by the Town to qualify for the WDF is $\$3.57 \times 773 = \$2,759.61$.



<http://ready.wi.gov/flooding/NorthernWI2016.asp>

There are three categories of work that are eligible for assistance through the WDF Program. They are Category A: Debris Removal; Category B: Emergency Protective Services and Category C: Repair of roads, bridges and associated features.

Eligible costs must be reasonable and necessary to accomplish the eligible work, compliant with federal, state, and local requirements for competitive procurement, and must be reduced by all applicable credits such as insurance proceeds and salvage values to avoid Duplication of Benefits. Eligible costs include labor, materials, equipment, rental equipment, contractor costs and the cost to replace stockpiled materials for each of the three Categories of Work.

If you suspect that storm damages will meet the minimum threshold, immediately contact the Burnett County Emergency Management Director. The next step is to declare an emergency for your jurisdiction. Within 24 hours, the EM Director will submit a Uniform Disaster Situation Report to the State indicating that you will be applying for the WDF.

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The next steps are documentation, documentation and documentation! In addition to detailed record-keeping, photographs are extremely helpful and provide context to those evaluating the WDF application.

For much more detailed information on the WDF as it applies to labor costs, equipment costs

and volunteers, please go to the Emergency Management website: [Burnett County Emergency Management](#). Under the section "Resources for Towns and Villages" you will find the WDF application packet and a template for declaring an emergency for your jurisdiction.

Not all storm damages will

qualify for the WDF. Smaller Towns and Villages have a much lower threshold to meet and the impact on their budget will be correspondingly much higher as well. If you have any questions about whether it will be beneficial to apply for assistance after a storm, please call the Emergency Management Director.

Forestry and Parks

Our summer season is in full swing and we are seeing high numbers of recreational users at all our different facilities. This time of year we concentrate on routine maintenance of our various facilities and trails so that our users are able to enjoy what Burnett County has to offer.

A few of the most recent maintenance activities have been mowing, grading and dragging the Gandy Dancer Bike Trail, installing two newly acquired docks at Jefferies Landing, and the Devils Lake boat launch. We were able to fix up the older docks and put them at a couple of other landing that do not re-

ceive the traffic that these other lakes do. Deer Lake and Mallard Lake accesses now have a dock on site to help with watercraft launching and for the general public to use.

Just before the opening of our ATV trails for the summer season, we completed a graveling project on trail 45 in the Town of Union. This provides a safer surface for our riders and also helps minimize erosion and washouts during rain events. Our Recreation Coordinator is conducting routine checks on the trail system looking for any potential issues to ensure the safety of our riders. Any issue or

ately. We are very fortunate to have excellent clubs to work with on our trail systems.

The rental of our youth camp, Camp Burnett, is at an all time high with essentially every weekend booked and many weekdays booked as well. We have a constant workload of check-ins and check-outs for all the different groups using the camp over this summer.

We will continue to do our best to address any and all of the issues that may come up within our parks, boat landings, trails and other facilities to ensure that our users are able to continue to enjoy what Burnett County has to offer.



potential issue is reported to the ATV Club and is addressed immediately.

**STAY SAFE
AND
ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

Health & Human Services

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

REPORT

Burnett County is one of 10 counties that make up the Great Rivers Consortium (GRC) for Economic Support Services. The other counties included in the GRC are: Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn.

The Great Rivers Consortium (GRC) provides trained Economic Support Specialists to staff the Great Rivers Call Center. The Great Rivers Call Center hours are 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri and 8:00 AM-11:00 AM on Wednesday. You can contact the Great Rivers Call Center at 1-888-283-0012 to apply for benefits, report changes, complete your renewal, and check the status of your case. You can also report changes and apply for benefits online at

www.access.wisconsin.gov.

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Subsidy Program, Wisconsin Shares, assists low-income families to pay for child care services. The Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial child care assistance to low-income parents who are working or preparing to enter the workforce.

To learn more about child care assistance visit

dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/default.htm

Healthcare

Medical Assistance / BadgerCare Plus are programs designed to provide health care coverage to income eligible individuals and families. Medicaid and Family Planning Only Services are also programs within the area of Medical Assistance.

To learn more about Medical Assistance visit

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid

To learn more about BadgerCare plus visit

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus

SNAP/Foodshare

SNAP is the new name for the improved Food Stamp program in Wisconsin. SNAP is today's food and nutrition program designed to help create a healthier Wisconsin. SNAP benefits are spent using a debit card called the Wisconsin QUEST card. The card is used to purchase food at participating grocery stores



<https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/doubledollars>

Maintenance and Grounds

Prior to 1996, the Government Center's heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) controls were located on each floor with a combination of manual switches, pneumatically controlled switch valves and gauges. Basically, there were two settings - Summer and Winter, both allowed some adjustment within those two choices. Also, energy costs

were rapidly rising at that time.

In 1996, the County Board selected Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI) with a 10 year contract, out of a group of bidders. They were to modernize our heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) control system, have a maintenance agreement for those controls and our HVAC equipment, plus they guaranteed a

projected energy savings by retrofitting various electrical and HVAC items throughout the Government Center.

Those 1996 goals were met and then some. Annual heating went from an average of 35,000 therms to 25,000 therms in the 1st year (1 therm = 100,000 btu).

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Annual electrical usage went from 725,000 kwh to 600,000 kwh in the 1st year. Since that 1st year, as we learned to operate the system and make other energy saving improvements we have lowered the heating to about 19,000 therms annually and 575,000 kwh annually. In 2006 we contracted with JCI for 10 years with just an equipment maintenance agreement.

This year we solicited plans from two companies for a HVAC maintenance service agreement and a capital equipment replacement plan. Recently, both the Infrastructure and Administration committees approved a 5 year contract once again with JCI.

Each of the 30 plus year old air conditioning systems for the 1st and 2nd floors of the Government Center will be replaced

with new environmentally responsible refrigerant and energy efficient units in the 1st year of the contract. In addition, our original, commercial grade, summertime hot water heater will also be replaced with a more efficient unit.

Along with some planned operational systems analysis and training, additional operational and energy savings could be realized.

University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Reorganization – Three executives from UWEX met with the five county region that includes Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Barron, and Rusk counties. The five county region will be the administrative area for guiding UWEX in the years to come. Vice-Chancellor Aaron Brower, Dean Rick Klemme, and Steve Wildeck, Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance answered questions from county board supervisors and administrators from each county. There was a large turnout with over 50 people in attendance.

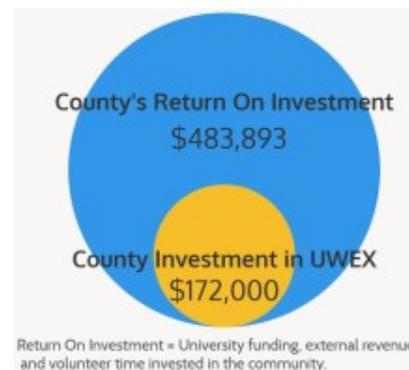
The reorganization process includes many workgroups that include both UWEX employees and county elected officials. The work groups will begin to share their recommenda-

tions this fall and winter with the final reorganization plan approved in spring of 2017. The year 2017 will be used as a transition year with implementation of the plan beginning in the second half of 2017 and continuing into 2018. UWEX has faculty and staff in each of the state's 72 counties and also on campuses at Madison, River Falls, Stevens Point, and others.

Currently, UWEX is navigating its 3.6 million cut by holding over 40 positions open and not refilling another 7% of existing positions. Chancellor Sandeen created guiding principles for the reorganization process in a letter released in February 2016. The work groups will provide recommendations that align with those principles. Likely, there will be more sharing of educators across

county lines. This is not new to Burnett County as agricultural agents have been shared with Washburn and Sawyer Counties for over 20 years.

In 2016, the University invested \$228,000 in Burnett County and co-funds 2.67 faculty positions. The UWEX Burnett County 2016 budget makes up 1.7% of the total county tax levy. Programming areas include 4-H Youth Development, Community Development, Family Living, and Agriculture.



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Jessica Strabel

We are excited to announce that Jessica Strabel officially started work as the 4-H Youth & Family Development Summer Intern on June 1st. Jessica was a member of

Burnett County 4-H for 13 years and recently completed her second year of college at UW-River Falls. Jessica is majoring in Stage & Screen Arts. This is related to Theatre Arts which is a large project area for Burnett County 4-H youth. We look forward to Jessica sharing her skills with us.

Some projects she will be working on include: promoting 4-H and face painting at Burnett Dairy Days, June 17 & 18, Sheriff Department's Summer Rec Program at Webster Elementary Playgrounds on Wednesdays, 4-

H Junior Leaders' Leadership Camp, July 11, 4-H Summer Camp, July 12-15 at Camp Burnett, Webster Library Summer Reading Program, July 6th 12:30-2:00 p.m., Junior Leaders' Popcorn Sales at the Webster Fair, July 22 & 23, National Night Out, August 2nd 5:00-8:00 p.m. and many other smaller projects to help our office during the busy summer months. Jessica will end her internship with us mid-August, in time to return to UW-River Falls to start her next adventure as a Resident Advisor in a university dormitory.

UW-Extension

Master Gardener Volunteers have been busy supporting various educational activities in Burnett County

A Spring Garden Seminar was held at the Wilderness Fellowship in Grantsburg on March 19 for over 25 attendees. This all day session focused on vegetable gardening and included topics on seed starting, variety selections, garden design, soil testing and ways to improve your soil. In partnership with

Ruby's Pantry in Siren a hands-on gardening workshop called 'Little Sprouts, Mini Master Gardener Short', was held on April 24. Thirty youths along with their parents attended. The goal of the program was to teach kids and their families how to grow their own healthy vegetables. Ruby's will also be a site for a community garden. Master Gardener volunteers also presented a garden seminar at Webster Library, assistance with school garden

projects at Webster and Grantsburg schools, and support the historic gardens at Fort Folle Avoine.



Master Gardener Volunteer, Pat
teaching kids at Ruby's
Pantry about seeds.

For more information, you can reference our website and Facebook in the County newsletter

You can find the latest copy of the North Country Master Gardeners Newsletter at:

<http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2016/05/mgnews0516.pdf>

University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism *(Continued)*

Annual Northwest Graziers Conference was held at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in Hayward. This educational event included presentations by farmers, veterinarians, University, and USDA staff. The event was also videotaped by Wisconsin Public TV, and will be part of their WI ideas lecture series. Farmers from Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Douglas, Barron and Polk County attended this event.



Kevin Schoessow demonstrating how to properly prune an apple tree.

Spring is the best time to learn about how to properly prune fruit trees. Several hands-on pruning workshops were held across the region to teach and demonstrate proper pruning and training techniques for apples, plums, grapes, blueberries and raspberry.

You can find the latest copy of the Agriculture Newsletter at:

<http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2016/03/ag2qu16.pdf>

The Spooner Agriculture Research website link is:

<http://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/>

The Spooner Agriculture Research Station Facebook link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/spoonerag/>

Veterans' Services

As many of you may know, our National Park Service (NPS) is 100 years old this year. The park system exists, in part, because of the US Army. When the NPS was first established in the 1800s, US Army Rangers were tasked to protect those first parks: Yellowstone, Sequoia and Yosemite. That is why the "Campaign Hat", or more commonly referred to as the "Smokey Bear Hat", is still worn as part of the Park Ranger uni-

form. That was the hat worn by the US Army at the time.



<http://www.alaskacenters.gov/how-do-i-become-a-park-ranger.cfm>

Today, veterans and civilians alike are experiencing the parks'

diverse landscapes – from deserts to mountains to massive redwoods – in life-changing ways. It is a pleasure to share that one of those ways is the "Vets On The River" program being offered through the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, in partnership with Rivers of Recovery, our local County Veterans Service Officers, and the St Croix River Association.

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Zoning/Land Information

The Zoning/Land Use office is sending out more sewer/holding tank service/inspection cards over the next few weeks. Approximately 700 green “first notice” cards for systems that need servicing/inspection in the second half of 2016 are being sent out. We are also sending out approximately 1,400 orange cards which is a “second/final notice”. The orange cards are for those sewers/holding tanks that were not serviced/inspected and were sent a green card in the past. We have approximately 5,000 sewers/holding tanks which could receive an orange card, but we are only doing about 1/3 at this point to avoid overloading the pumpers/inspectors and our office with phone calls.

As you all know we have had some flooding in July, here are some pictures that show a structure on the St Croix River before the flood and then during the flood.



Pictures taken at a
Grantsburg
Township home