



Issue 31

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

October 2016

Administration

The October County Board of Supervisors meeting brought a number of policy changes. In an effort to keep all staff well informed and updated, I'd like to share the highlights of the changes.

Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace: A new policy added to Section 5 with a purpose of promoting guidelines to provide an atmosphere of acceptance and support.

FMLA: An update to section 7.05. Language was added to help clarify the County's policy for documenting absences due to an FMLA-qualifying event.

Health Insurance: An addition to section 7.11. This policy now

asserts the premium split of 85/15 (employer/employee) and explains the 3% employee premium reduction that is available to Healics participants.

Holiday: An addition to section 7.03 to clarify excess pay for working on a holiday.

Hours of Work: Added language to Section 5.02 stipulating a limitation of 20 minutes before/after work for convenience and adds that off-the-clock work is strictly prohibited.

Time without Pay: An addition to section 7.02 explaining that accrued time must be exhausted before time without pay is granted.

Wellness Day: A new policy

added as a subsection to section 7. Annually, one day of paid leave will be granted to participants of the Healics screenings, to complete their annual physical exam.

The policy manual is in the process of being updated and will be available soon. When these updates have been completed, Administration will notify all staff of its availability and where it can be located. Signature pages will be collected in early 2017 from staff, in acknowledgment that the manual has been reviewed.

- Nate

Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has been very aware of the growing demographic of aging in our state. Along with increase of the aged population comes the increase of those with dementia. Earlier this year, DHS released a set of guiding principles for the Wisconsin Dementia Care System. One of the areas identified is Community Awareness. You

will be hearing about several upcoming opportunities hosted or supported by the ADRC to help with developing Dementia Friendly Communities. We hope you find one that will be of interest to you.

The next one is directed towards the first responders of our communities. Many of the behaviors associated with dementia in-

crease a person's chance of interacting with a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic or other first responder.

At first glance, it may not be apparent that a person has dementia. However, there are a number of traits that may lead you to believe that the person has the disease:

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 2)

Other news in the Court’s world, which many of you have probably heard, is that Judge Kutz will be retiring at the end of November.

Candidates interested in replacing him can begin circulating nomination papers as early as December 1st, and an election for the position will be held in April

2017. The newly elected Burnett County Circuit Court Judge would begin their term of office beginning August 1, 2017, and will serve for 6 years. The Governor has the option of appointing a replacement Judge during the interim, who would be in office until the winner of the election begins their duties on August 1st. In the meantime, we

have been informed by the Director of State Court’s office that they will assign Reserve Judges (typically a retired Circuit Court Judge) several days a week to keep our cases moving through the Court process. As you can imagine, Judge Kutz will be missed by all of us who have worked with him over his 33 years here in Burnett County.

County Clerk

Who is the County Clerk and what does the office of the County Clerk do? Many times the “County Clerk” is confused with the “Clerk of Courts”. The Clerk of Courts deals with the judicial system within the county. Although they are both elected positions, the County Clerk is responsible for many other statutory duties along with a multitude of other optional duties and responsibilities in the county.

Much of what we do is regulated by Wisconsin Statutes including responsibilities relating to county board supervisors, county board and committee meeting proceedings, meeting agendas and posting of, resolution and ordinance record keeping, recording and the sale of tax deed properties, administrator of all elections including State-

County Clerk

Mission Statement

The mission of the Burnett County Clerk is to provide, in a prompt and courteous manner, services to State, County, local Government officials, and the public as directed by Wisconsin Statutes and the Burnett County Board of Supervisors.

wide Voter Registration, training and preparation for elections, issuance of marriage licenses, administrator of dog licensing, oaths and bonds, record keeping and open record requests, wood cutting notices, census and redistricting management, contracts, leases and agreements and many other duties associated with filing and record keeping for county operations.

Many responsibilities of the County Clerk’s Office are not statutorily mandated. These du-

ties may differ from county to county depending on the needs and structure of each individual county. In Burnett County our office also does asset management, purchasing and lodging, property and liability insurance, passports and passport photos, all mail and postal related functions, office form set up and printing for departments, meeting room scheduling, county fleet car management, county directory management and printing and a multitude of other county functions related to the ongoing daily operations of the county as a whole. In many counties the Office of the County Clerk is still referred to as the “Hub Office” of the building because of the variety of responsibilities and duties that assist and work with all departments in the county and with public service.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness

Emergency Management

The Burnett County Public Safety communications tower project is finally coming to a close! The last antenna site on the Hertel water tower will be completed in a few weeks. In a cooperative effort with the St. Croix Tribe, we have installed a shelter, back-up generator and microwave antenna on the water tower to connect with the already completed site at the Dairyland tower in Washburn County. This will provide greatly improved public safety communication capabilities in the southern and eastern part of Burnett County.

One of the enhancements made to the project during the many delays was the establishment of a fiber optic network connecting many of the towers. The two main advantages of fiber optics are greater reliability during inclement weather, and that it sets the stage for the county to take advantage of the trend toward more digital public safety communications.

Upon completion, the project will have a linked system of 9 tower sites providing simulcast paging capabilities for fire and law enforcement as well as enhanced mobile and portable ra-

dio coverage countywide. Each site is equipped with a back-up generator to maintain the system in the event of a widespread power outage.

Public/private partnerships were critical during the build out of the system. Two of the towers are county owned and the rest are cooperative arrangements with Mosaic, American Tower Corp., The Joint Water Quality Commission in Danbury, Dairyland Power and the St. Croix Tribe. Sirentel is providing the fiber optic connectivity.

Forestry and Parks

The Burnett County Forest consists of approximately 111,000 acres scattered across most areas of Burnett County. These properties abut many different ownerships, including state, federal and private land. Most private property owners have a legal access to their property. However, in some cases there are still parcels that have no legal access to them. In cases like this, Burnett County has been approached by the land owner looking to gain access or an easement to their property. So what are the options the county has to work with when we receive this type of a request?

First of all, if the County property is entered into the County

Forest Law Program, we are unable to grant an actual easement due to the statutes within this program. However, that does not mean we cannot grant access. Of course the private property owner could always access their property by foot through the county owned property, but in most cases the individual is looking for a driveway type of an access. If this is the case, we then look to the option of what we call a "Land Use Agreement" for the private property owner. This type of an agreement can be made between the County and the land owner, allowing them to put in a driveway to access their property. In order to grant such an agreement, the property

owner must first show that it is a route of last resort. If they have other access to their property, we cannot issue a Land Use Agreement. If no other access is available, we can issue a Land Use Agreement once approved by the Natural Resource Committee. There are a number of stipulations that go with a Land Use Agreement that pertain to the maintenance of the trail on the County property, who is allowed to use it, and width of the access-to name a few. There is also a one-time payment for the agreement, at a rate of \$.75/lin ft or a minimum of \$250.00 whichever is greater.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

This agreement is non-transferable, which means it goes with the owner and not the property. So anytime there is a change in ownership, the new owner would need to request a

land use agreement and make the one-time payment for its use.

If you find yourself with an access issue to your property, and the only option is to cross County Forest Lands, give us a

call and we will help you through the process to see if you qualify for a Land Use Agreement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. Thank you!

- *Burnett County Forestry Staff* -

Health & Human Services

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations. Operating with federal and state funding, the program provides assistance to approximately 230,000 Wisconsin households annually.

Most types of fuel are eligible to receive assistance. Whether you use wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, or fuel oil to heat your home, energy assistance is available if you qualify.

Heating Assistance

WHEAP assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of the heating costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the entire cost of heating a residence. The amount of the

energy assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

Electric Assistance

Your household may be eligible to receive a payment for non-heating electric energy costs through funding provided by Wisconsin's Public Benefits.

WHEAP electric (non-heating) assistance is a one-time benefit payment during the heating season (October 1-May 15). The funding pays a portion of the household's electrical (non-heating) costs, but the payment is not intended to cover the en-

tire cost of the non-heating costs.

The amount of the non-heating assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and non-heating costs. In most cases the non-heating assistance benefit is paid directly to the household energy supplier.

How to Apply

Your household may be eligible for Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) services based on a number of factors. However, if the gross income for your household is less than the amount shown on the following chart, you might be eligible to receive assistance.

Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services will

begin taking applications for energy assistance beginning October 1, 2016. Call 349-7600 to schedule an appointment. Office hours are Mon-Fri. 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Household Size	One Month Gross Income	Three Month Gross Income
1	\$2,181	\$6,544
2	\$2,852	\$8,557
3	\$3,524	\$10,571
4	\$4,195	\$12,584
5	\$4,866	\$14,597
6	\$5,537	\$16,611
7	\$5,663	\$16,988

Land and Water Conservation

Burnett County Sweeps Awards at 2016 Tri-County Land Judging Contest

For the first time in history, Burnett County students have taken ALL the top honors at the 42nd Annual Tri County Land Judging Competition!

The 2016 Competition was won this year by a team of four students from Webster High School: Brett Johnson, Maggie Wright, Sunny Cone and Synclare Stubbe.



2nd Place: Siren #1, 840 points, (L-R) Mollie Kozak, Kayla Eideh, Abby Good, John Doric

This year's contest, hosted by Polk County, was held on Thursday, October 13th at the beautiful Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery. The annual event rotates between Polk, Burnett, and Washburn Counties and is supported by the Burnett, Polk and Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Departments, with support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The event was attended by 89 students representing eight

schools, Webster, Siren, Clear Lake, Luck, Frederic, Unity, Shell Lake and Spooner. The students compete as teams and as individuals. Each school is allowed up to two teams of four contestants each. The participants examined the soil and surrounding land. They then defined texture, structure, drainage and production capabilities and land uses of several different soils. All the students did well and the weather was very cooperative with perfect fall temperatures and lots of sunshine.

After judging the pits, the students headed back to the Bible Camp for lunch and the awards presentation. Lunch was provided through generous support from Unity FFA and Alumni, Polk County Agriculture Educators, and Larsen Family Meats. A special thanks to Lakecrest Farms for hosting the event and to Gille Trucking and Excavating for digging the soil pits.

The top 3 placing teams were All from Burnett County!

1st Place: Webster with 882 points: Brett Johnson, Maggie Wright, Sunny Cone and Synclare Stubbe.

2nd Place: Siren #1 with 840 points: Mollie Kozak, Kayla Eideh, Abby Good, John Doric.

3rd Place: Siren #2 with 785

points: Kaylin Ritchey, Tyler Anton, Cassie Wentland, Max Lindquist.



3rd Place: Siren #2, 785 points, (L-R) Kaylin Ritchey, Tyler Anton, Cassie Wentland, Max Lindquist

The top 8 Individual winners ALL from Burnett County!

1st Place: Sunny Cone, Webster with 317 points

2nd Place: Mollie Kozak, Siren #1 with 291 points

3rd Place: TIE: Bailey Mangen, Siren #2 with 287 points

3rd Place: TIE: Brett Johnson, Webster with 287 points



1st Place: Webster, 882 points, (L-R) Brett Johnson, Maggie Wright, Sunny Cone,

Synclare Stubbe

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

4th Place: John Doric, Siren #1 with 286 points

5th Place: Max Lindquist, Siren #2 with 284 points

6th Place: Synclaire Stubbe, Webster with 278 points

7th Place: Maggie Wright, Webster with 277 points

We need to give a shout out to Randy Gilbertson, Burnett County Ag technician. Randy

worked with both Burnett County schools providing them with classroom and field

instruction to help them through the competition, and obviously, the instruction paid off.

Congratulations to all the students

who participated in a job well done. Next year the event will be in Washburn County.



Individual winners (L-R, 1st – 7th place) Sunny Cone, Mollie Kozak, Bailey Mangement for 3rd place with Brett Johnson, John Doric, Max Lindquist, Synclaire Stubbe, Maggie Wright

Maintenance and Grounds

To heat the Government Center, we have a hydronic boiler heating system – that is: we use a closed loop re-circulating hot water system. Although called a boiler, this type of heating plant does not use steam and is a low pressure hot water system. There are also some electric duct heaters used for some of the basement offices. Generally speaking, since water is about the best heat transfer medium there is, a hydronic system is an efficient way to move heat around in medium sized office buildings and large homes. Wisconsin does not require a special operator's permit to operate this type of heating plant, but does require a vessel inspection every three years.

For the Government Center, the boiler water temperature set point varies based on the current outside temperature. It is con-

tinuously adjusted by our building HVAC management system. The boiler output temperature is usually set for the minimum level when outside temperatures are at 50° F and above, then it gradually slides to the maximum output temperature when the outside temps reach 0° F and below. In the winter months we use boiler heat transfer coils to make domestic hot water to use, allowing us to shut down the hot water heater for the winter.

There is a main water pump along with a smaller backup/booster pump that is used to re-circulate the heated water in a closed piping system that runs throughout the Government Center. Unlike the air conditioning system in which the Government Center is essentially zoned as a single cooling zone for each floor, the heating system has 60

separate heat zones, excluding the Jail's cell blocks. Each zone has a thermostat that regulates a local heat valve and coil that warms the forced air for that zone. Some zones are still pretty big but this is still a better situation than on the air conditioning side of things. These zones are centrally controlled by the HVAC management system. The Jail cell blocks are not part of the HVAC management system and are still operated with the original style pneumatic thermostats.

In a typical, well designed hydronic system, the heat zones would each have radiant ceiling or wall panels to help warm objects at a distance, reheat coils to warm the forced air, and base board fin tubes to make a 'heat curtain' against outside walls.

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

Unfortunately, the Government Center designers left out the base board fin tubes - probably due to the expense and to stay within construction budget. Since our radiant panels, and heated air vents are at ceiling level - it is difficult for the system to get heat down to floor level. However, we do have base board fin tubes in the Jail cell blocks.

In some office areas, we have measured temperature differences between floor level temperature verses 6 feet above the floor being as much as 15°F, on those really cold -10°F days. Most thermostats are at the 4 to 5 foot level. If your back is to an outside wall you will feel the cold off the windows. Also, if your desk is facing out and is against an outside wall, the ceiling radiant panel heat cannot get past your desk

top to warm legs and floor. It's best to dress appropriately in the winter.

Well, that is the boat we are in.



<https://www.pinterest.com>

Sheriff's Office

Bottom Line Up Front: US law enforcement officer deaths due to gunfire are up 57% in 2016; since the early 2000s, an increasing proportion of officers feloniously killed in the line of duty have been the result of unprovoked ambush attacks. The increasing prevalence of ambush attacks against police significantly complicates efforts to bridge the growing divide between police and the communities they serve.

While the ongoing public debate regarding the use of force by police has brought increased attention to recent ambush attacks against police officers, such incidents are not a new phenomenon. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), there were 526 ambush attacks against law enforcement in 1991 - the highest number in the past 25 years. From 2000-2012, the average

number of ambushes against police officers per year was 215. While this is a significant decrease from the numbers seen in the early 1990s, a 2013 IACP report noted that fatal ambush attacks against officers had risen significantly in recent years. According to the report, between the years 1990-2000, ambush assaults accounted for 12% of police officers killed in the line of duty; from 2001-2012, that number had jumped to 21%. The report also noted that while 36% of ambushes involved the use of a firearm, 35% of ambush attacks against police were committed with hands only. Another 26% of ambush attacks against officers were committed with 'Other' weapons - such as motor vehicles or other blunt objects - demonstrating the wide variety of threats that officers must be prepared to con-

front. The IACP study indicated that the survivability rate for officers encountering an unprovoked ambush attack was less than 50% - highlighting the fact that while these incidents occur with relatively low frequency, the highly unpredictable and deadly nature of their occurrence make them extremely high-risk events for all police officers. According to statistics from the FBI's annual Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) from 2004-2013, an average of 57,346 police officers were violently assaulted in the line of duty annually. Of those, an average of 15,375 officers sustained injuries as a result of the assault. In 2014, the FBI's UCR indicated that 30.4% of officers who were attacked with hands, fists, or feet sustained injuries.

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 8)

Any one of these assaults has the potential to turn deadly if the officer is overcome or incapacitated by the attacker. In 2016, law enforcement agencies have seen a surge of violence directed towards police. To date in 2016, police officer deaths as a result of gunfire are up 57% from 2015; the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) mid-year law enforcement officer fatalities report – released in July – indicated almost half of officer deaths from gunfire in 2016

were the result of ambush-style attacks. As the aftermath of several tragic police-involved shootings of black men has clearly demonstrated, there is a very real need for serious discussions about the role of law enforcement in America, and how to bridge the growing divide between police and the communities they serve – particularly in minority communities with persistent tensions with law enforcement. Proponents of police reform – as well as all Americans – are absolutely justified in demanding account-

ability and transparency amongst law enforcement. But discussions over the issue of police use of force must take into account the full scope of the dangers officers face. While the annual number of officer fatalities has remained relatively stable over the past decade, the possibility of unprovoked, violent attacks against law enforcement are an increasingly common reality police officers across the country face every day.

University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

In September, Chancellor Sandeen appointed a new interim dean to lead us through our reorganization. Karl Martin is a relatively new colleague in UWEX.



<http://ecals.cals.wisc.edu>

He brings a lot of experience and knowledge to his new role

including his two years as program leader for UWEX Community Natural Resources and Economic Development and his many years in research/administration role with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Karl has already initiated some changes to our reorganization process by putting a greater emphasis on developing options to take forward to our stakeholders and county partners. UWEX is reorganizing to address a \$3.6 million budget cut.

Local tourism grants are being offered again in 2017 with the next deadline February 1, 2017.

The 2016 grants helped to promote our county in several ways. Those projects include the following: Air show, countywide social media promotion, Adventure Triathlon, Grantsburg branding project, Burnett County wildlife auto tour and Siren brochure, and a Taste of the Trail. If an organization has not previously applied, then they should have a pre-application meeting with Mike Kornmann, UWEX Community Development Agent. Kornmann can be contacted at mike.kornmann@ces.uwex.edu.