



Issue 14

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

April 2015

## Administration

*Democracy is the art of thinking independently together.*

- Alexander Meiklejohn

Democracy isn't designed to be quick, clean and simple. The democratic process has as much merit as the outcome, yet is often scrutinized due to its slow, and sometime, agonizing flow. However, the alternative, as seen throughout history, can be debilitating. Let's quickly review the Gandy Dancer Trail and special events process recently voted upon by our County Board.

January 2015 - Forestry/Parks Department received notice from the DNR of their new interpretation for special events, prompting the County to address its Master Plan.

March 2015 - Natural Resources Committee approved new language for special events, including provisions for up to 5 motorized permits on the trail each year.

March - April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - County received letters regarding summer motorized uses on the trail, information requests were made by

trail users, and attorneys were consulted on proper process and rules interpretation.

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 - County Board takes up the item on the Agenda. This is where the proverbial rubber meets the road. During the public comments section, the County Board heard from seven individuals. Five comments made were in opposition to the proposed master plan amendment of motorized use, two where in favor of the drafted language. Public comments are always interesting to me. It is an opportunity to see the passion that people have for certain issues. People prepare speeches, visuals, and take time from their daily lives to pursue something that they may or may not be able to impact...not only were the comments at this meeting well prepared, but shows civic engagement is still alive in our communities!

As the Board debated the issue, I was lucky enough to have a bird's eye view and observe the interactions among the Board Supervisors. With side conversations be-

tween Supervisors, the debate and conversation moved back and forth like a good volley.

From an amendment to the main motion to an amendment to an amendment, it was democracy in action, "...*thinking independently together*" was certainly evident as the debate continued. In the end, after more than an hour of debate, the policy that prevailed, in regards to motorized use on the Gandy Dancer Trail was; Only two designated special use motorized events will be authorized for year 2015 and they must not occur before the Saturday following Labor Day. Those events are the existing Veterans ATV Ride and the Antique Car Ride. No special use motorized events will be permitted starting in the year 2016.

While the process and debate that occurred may have seemed confusing at times for those present, I do not believe citizens would want anything less. I look forward to more constructive debates as our elected officials encounter many priorities facing the County.

*-Nate*

## Forestry and Parks

Now that winter is coming to a close, the Forestry Department's spring work is just beginning. Spring is a very busy time for our department in the woods. We tend to see increased timber sale activity due to the wet conditions. Our soils are well drained sandy soils which allow loggers to work during the wet spring time. While our loggers are able to work in the woods, they are not always allowed to use the town and county roads for hauling during this time. Most loggers understand the reasons behind the road weight limit restrictions during the spring and will follow the postings. With that being said,

these contractors still look to keep working when possible. So don't be surprised if you get a call from one of our producers asking to be able to use one of your roads. Usually they are looking for permission to make one or two trips on the road to either move equipment into or out of a job. We hope that you will be able to work with our contractors in these situations and come to an agreement that will work for everyone, all while protecting the integrity of the road.

There are many other things that our department is working on in the spring. We are busy with our tree planting program and other

regeneration projects. We assist the DNR with the spring fire season when needed, and we are working on getting our parks, boat landings, youth camp and recreational trails ready for the busy summer season which usually starts in mid May. Spring is a time of clean-up and preparation for the Burnett County Forest & Parks Department, which allows us to get ready for another great summer here in Burnett County.

We hope you enjoy the nice temperatures and no bugs, because before we know it we will be swatting bugs and turning on the A/C due to the heat.

## Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Governor's proposed budget has been released. There are some proposed changes when it comes to the ADRC and some of the programs that we provide to help people. Some key points include:

- Eliminating the IRIS program as an alternative to the Family Care Program for those who wish to fully self-direct their long-term care services and supports.
- Requires adults aged 65 and older needing prescription drug coverage to apply for, and if qualified, enroll in a Medicare Part D plan versus just automatically enrolling in SeniorCare (Wisconsin's prescription drug program). Uses SeniorCare as a wrap-around program only.
- Allows the State Department of Health Services (DHS) to contract with a resource center (ADRC) or a private entity for some or all of the services currently provided by ADRC's.
- Eliminates the requirement of ADRC governing boards and regional advisory committees.
- Moves some of the administrative functions and oversight of Family Care from DHS to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI). Regulates Care Management Organization as insurance entities under OCI.
- This proposed budget does not affect any Aging Programs as they fall under the Federal Older Americans Act.

Educate yourself and do your research. Some websites recommended for neutral sources are:

Full document: Wisconsin Department of Administration:

<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Budget-and-Finance/Biennial-Budget/Executive-Budget>

Wisconsin Counties Association: <https://www.wicounties.org/legislative.iml#state-budget>

## Veteran Services

This month we would like to focus on the WI Driver's License as an identification of veteran status. Beginning in 2014, the State of Wisconsin authorized the veteran status identifier on the driver's license. In order to do this, the veteran must first be verified as a veteran in the Dept of Transportation web base, which means the veteran needs to either submit a completed form WDVA 2241 to WI Dept of Vet Affairs or go to their County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) to obtain a completed and signed form MV310. The form is very simple. The CVSO is required to look at your DD214 and a photo ID. If the veteran goes and renews their license before going to the CVSO or submitting application to WDVA, s/he will, in all likelihood, be charged a duplication

fee when s/he returns to have it put on the license. The veteran should not assume that if s/he has already established eligibility for state benefits, that s/he is in the WDOT web base. They are two entirely different systems. DMV personnel cannot accept the DD214. If the veteran goes to renew his/her license and s/he is told they are not in the system – STOP. DO NOT RENEW THE LICENSE. Go to the CVSO to obtain a completed MV310 and then return to DMV to renew license.

The County Veterans Service Officer can assist in applying for this benefit as well as other federal and state veterans benefits.

### April

6 – WWI Began (1917(US))  
 8 – Nat'l Former POW Recognition Day  
 11 – Persian Gulf War Cease Fire (1991)  
 12 – Civil War begins  
 22 – Earth Day  
 23 – Army Reserve, B-Day (1908)

### May

6 – Nurses Day  
 7 – Vietnam War Ends (1975)  
 13 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
 15 – Peace Officer's Memorial Day  
 16 – Armed Forces Day  
 25 – Memorial Day



## Health and Human Services

April is STD Awareness Month, and Burnett County DHHS-Public Health is supporting the national “Get Yourself Tested” campaign. There are nearly 30,000 new sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) occurring in Wisconsin each year. **One in two sexually active young people will get an STD by the age of 25, and most won’t know it.** The majority of STDs do not cause symptoms, yet they can lead to serious health effects like pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. That is why it is so

important for all sexually active young people to be tested for STDs annually.

HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is the most common STD in the US. Almost all sexually active men and women will get it at some point in their lives. HPV usually has no symptoms, but there are some types that can cause genital warts and **cancer**. The good news is that there is a vaccine that prevents against HPV and its related health problems. The vaccine protects against the strains of HPV that

cause 70% of all cervical cancers and 90% of all genital warts.

**This is the first cancer preventing vaccine!** It is recommended for all girls and boys ages 11-12, but it may be given up to age 26. HPV vaccine produces a higher immune response in preteens than it does in older teens and young adults, which is why it is recommended at an early age before sexual activity begins. When you get your child vaccinated, you’re not opening the door to sex; you’re closing the door to cancer.



## Health and Human Services, Cont.

### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month ... but you can act to support families and protect children all year round!

Prevention is the best hope for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving the lives of children and families. Strengthening families and preventing child abuse requires a shared commitment of individuals and organizations in every community. The future prosperity of any community depends on its ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation. When a community invests wisely in children and families, the next generation will pay that back through a lifetime of productivity and responsible citizenship. Yet, when not all children have equal opportunity for healthy growth and development — due to experiences of child abuse and neglect — we put our future at risk.

While April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, you can make a big difference year-round through small acts that help protect children, strengthen families, promote traits that help protect families — and, ultimately, prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

Here is a list of simple tips that can have a positive effect on the well-being and healthy development of children, families and communities.

#### For your family:

- **As a parent, block out 15 minutes a day to play one-on-one with your child — doing anything he or**

**she wants.** We know from studies that the more parents engage in positive activities with their children, the less they use negative physical and psychological discipline.

- **Tell the children or youth in your life how much you care for them and appreciate them.** All children deserve to have someone who is “crazy about them” and loves them unconditionally.
- **Work with the kids in your life to explore their heritage and learn their family’s story.** Every family has a rich story to tell and our connections to our past help us carry forward our values and traditions.

**Connect with grandparents to preserve cultural heritage.** Grandparents are an incredible source of cultural heritage — from traditions to language to food! Encourage them to tell stories to their grandchildren and even visit their schools to share where they come from.

#### For friends and neighbors:

- **Compliment a father — someone you know or even someone in public — on something positive you see him do with his children.** Dads contribute uniquely to children’s development.
- **Offer your time to baby-sit for the child of a friend, neighbor or family member.** All parents need help sometimes — even if it is just to rest or “recharge” for an hour or two.
- **Mentor a young dad you know in growing his relationship with his kids.** Some young dads may need help with transportation or in identifying helpful resources for

their children.

- **Support parents looking for a job by offering your professional knowledge and experience in resume writing or preparing for a job interview.** Financial stability links directly with family stability and can have a big effect on the emotional well-being of caregivers and their children.
- **Encourage single mothers you know, whenever possible, to support the involvement of children’s fathers in their lives.** When non-custodial dads work to be involved in the lives of their children, they need the positive support of the child’s other parent or caretaker to encourage the development of that relationship.
- **Build community trust and togetherness by inviting friends to participate in a meaningful cultural event in your life.** Helping people learn about your culture may help them understand that despite some differences, we have a lot in common — especially the need for support now and then.
- **Be a resource and “sounding board” for a dad who is separated from his children.** Dads provide qualities and benefits for their children no one else can.
- **Arrange a potluck event in your neighborhood to get to know other parents and their kids.** Friends and neighbors can give outstanding support to families in times of need or stress.

## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

The growth of our local economy comes primarily from existing businesses and small business start-ups. In an effort to promote sound business planning, UW Extension and the Burnett County Development Association (BCDA) are co-sponsoring the 2015 Create Your Own Business Plan Competition. Participants must submit a complete business plan with financial projections and cash flow analysis. New businesses and existing businesses that are

looking to expand qualify. As part of the process, participants must also provide an in person presentation to the judges. The judges not only select a winner, but provide feedback on how the plan can be made better and provide other resources for the participant. Along with the fun of winning the contest, the winner receives up to \$2,500 cash to implement the plan. The deadline for the contest is September 15, 2015. Participants can also sign up for a free business plan

workshop held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Contact Mike Kornmann for more information. Past winners include: Lean On Me Home Care, Square One Pizza, The Granary, A&H Storage, and Northwoods Lumber. The mission of the BCDA is to provide economic opportunities for people, businesses, and communities. Their board has geographic representation and includes members from the banking and utility industries.

## County Clerk

One of the statutory duties of the Office of the County Clerk is to issue marriage licenses. When two people wish to wed in the State of Wisconsin the process starts in our office. A couple must apply in person to fill out a marriage application. Information for both parties is recorded on the application that will allow a couple to obtain a marriage license if they meet all the requirements set forth by the state statutes. A person must provide their names, parents' names, a certified birth certificate, proof of residence, be at least 16 years of age (16 and 17 year olds require parental permission), if previously married

provide proof of its dissolution at least 30 days prior to the date the marriage license can be issued, date and place the marriage is to take place and information on the officiant who will be performing the ceremony. A confidential section of the application requires information on social security numbers, race, education and contact information. This information is only allowed to be given to a law enforcement agent and used for child support collections if necessary. An oath is administered to swear or affirm all the information provided by the couple is correct to the best of their knowledge. A fee of \$75.00 is

collected by the Clerk and the application information is recorded in a public folder that is available for viewing. There is a five-day waiting period after the application is completed before the license can be issued. Under special circumstances the County Clerk may waive the five-day waiting period and issue the license sooner. The license can then be issued, the couples marries and then must file the license at the office of the Register of Deeds to be recorded with the State.