



Issue 24

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

March 2016

## Administration

As the days grow longer and the sun provides more warmth, we cannot help but start to think of summer vacations.

While employees accrue vacation, the utilization of time away from the office continues to decrease. According to a Survey by Harris Interactive, Inc. Americans will, on average, use almost 4 days less of vacation this year compared to 2011. Certainly, you can find

managers who believe this is positive, however you won't find that sentiment with me. I am a firm believer in people taking time away from the office. There has been a lot of study in this area and the following are research based reasons to use that vacation time.

- 1) Better physical health
- 2) More productivity
- 3) Closer family relationships
- 4) New perspectives

- 5) Increased mental power
- 6) Lower chance of burnout
- 7) Improved mental health

You've earned the time, so start planning those summer vacations.

One more note, by the end of April, Administration and Finance will be in one combined office (190).

- Nate

## Health & Human Services

### Social Work Month: March 2016

The official theme for Social Work Month in March 2016 is "Social Work: Forging Solutions Out of Challenges." Celebrated each March, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on the profession and highlight the important contributions they make to society. Social workers help people overcome some of life's most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness,

divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability, and mental illness. They help prevent crises and counsel individuals, families, and communities to cope more effectively with the stresses of everyday life.

The social workers in Burnett County have amazing tenacity and talent. They confront some of the most challenging issues facing individuals, families, communities and society and forge solutions that help people reach their full potential and make our County a better place to live.

We celebrate the contributions of

all of our social workers during National Social Work Month in March.

This month we are also celebrating **Inger LeClair**, Social Worker in the Children and Families Unit.

Inger is the recipient of a 2016 Secretary's Caring for Kids Award. Inger was chosen because of her extraordinary commitment to the children and families she serves. Ingers dedicated service to the social work profession has impacted the lives of many in our community. In her nomination,  
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Ingers supervisor wrote " While some social workers may become jaded by this kind of work, Inger continues to find the good in people and continues to respect and look for

change she knows families are capable of. She strives to help families and ensure children are safe. Ingers commitment to improving the lives of children and families is embodied by what she does on a daily basis".

Inger is one of only 6 recipients of this award in the state, and will be honored at the 2016 Secretary's Caring for Kids Award ceremony on March 31st at the State Capitol in Madison. Congratulations Inger!

## Land and Water Conservation

The ice is off the lakes and they will once again be a busy place of recreation. But being on the lake is not all fun and games. With the coming of Spring, so comes the many projects that the Land and Water Conservation Department ( LWCD) does for water quality and invasive species protection, such as Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring, Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and developing Aquatic Plant Management plans. Numerous lake associations in Burnett County, as well as other counties across the state, have been very active in these programs. Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring, prevention and management is at the top of the list of projects being done during the spring and summer months. Summer interns spend a great deal of time on boat landings checking trailers for invasives using the Clean Boats Clean Waters program, with special attention to the lakes with existing

Eurasian Water Milfoil infestations. All of the landings are checked twice a year for invasives. The busiest boat landings have been surveyed to determine what aquatic plants (as well as invasives) are present at each location . Purple Loosestrife and



Knotweed control as well as Phragmites monitoring is being done across the county. A tremendous amount of time is being spent monitoring for new invasive species infestations. LWCD also works in cooperation with the DNR to sample lakes for spiny water flea and zebra mussels. Each summer for the last 5 years several lakes have been targeted by the DNR and are surveyed for these two invasive species, as well as any other invasive

species that are found. Burnett County LWCD also provides training to lake associations who might be interested in conducting their own monitoring. Several lake associations around the county have participated in these vital trainings. After all, the folks who live on the lake are more likely to spot an invasive species before anyone else. Another project that LWCD does is to assist in the development of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plans for Lake Associations. Several lakes in the county have worked with the county developing a strategy to prevent/manage aquatic invasive species as well as water quality issues in and around their lake. If you have any question or are interested in any of these programs, please feel free to call Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department at 715-349-2186 or [lwcd@burnettcounty.org](mailto:lwcd@burnettcounty.org) for more information.

## Maintenance and Grounds

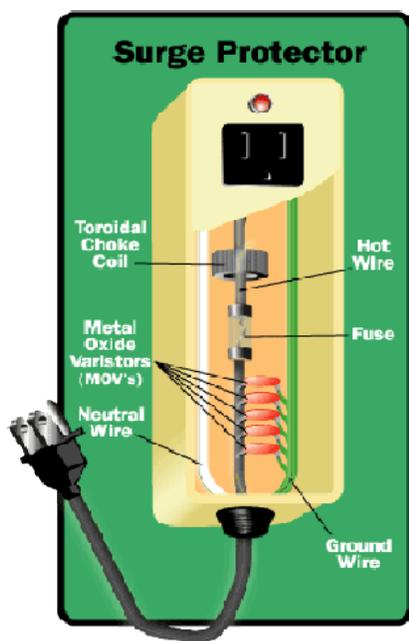
A power surge is one form of electrical power disturbance. There are four main types of power disturbances: Voltage dips (also called "sags" or "brownouts"); Electromagnetic interference; Radio frequency interference, and Power surges (also referred to as "voltage surges" or "transient voltages"). Power surges are generally considered to be the most destructive of the four types of electrical power disturbances.

Power surges are spikes in voltage that are very brief, usually lasting millionths of a second. Power surges can vary in duration and magnitude, varying from a few hundred volts to several thousand volts. No matter where you live, any electrical system will experience power surges.

A spike in voltage can be harmful to appliances and electrical devices. An increase in voltage above an appliance's normal operating voltage can cause an arc of electrical current within the appliance. The heat generated in the arc causes damage to the electronic circuit boards and other electrical components. Smaller, repeated power surges may slowly damage your electronic equipment over a period of time.

There are several sources of power surges. They can originate from the electric utility company

during power grid switching. Power surges can also originate inside an office or home when large appliances like air conditioners and refrigerator motors turn on and off. Another common cause of power surges, especially the most common destructive type, is lightning.



Power surges can enter an electrical system through several paths. In the case of lightning, it can take the path of the antennas or satellite dish cables, through the incoming telephone lines, or through the incoming electrical service line. Protection of the incoming electrical service, protection of phone lines and antenna cables plus point of use surge protectors at sensitive and expensive appliances are ways to limit lightning damage. Typically, we do all three methods at the Government Center in varying de-

grees.

Proper facility grounding is important for surge protectors to work. Most surge protectors today are made with Metal Oxide Varistors (MOV). MOV's were developed in the 1970's for the military to counter the effects of an Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP), in case of a nuclear explosion in the upper atmosphere. The practical, civilianized use for MOV's is electrical surge protection. MOV's are designed to activate at a given voltage level. When the MOV detects voltages over a certain amount, it immediately switches to route the surge to the facility earth grounding point within nanoseconds. Point of use surge protectors must be plugged into three prong outlets and the grounding system must be in good working order for everything to go as planned.

In the fall of 2006, the Maintenance Department partnered with the Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op and designed a package that should protect the building from most power surges. The system is fully automated and reacts immediately to clamp voltage surges. No operator intervention is required, and the devices reset automatically and are maintenance free. No solution is 100% effective, lightning is very good at finding a pathway into an electrical system despite all the efforts to stop it.

## Register of Deeds

Effective **Jan. 1, 2017** residents may no longer have to travel to other counties to obtain their vital records. Vital record events include: birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates.

Currently, residents have to travel to the county in which the event occurred, order by mail, or order by phone using a credit card to receive their records. Your ability to obtain these records will ultimately be easier than ever.

With new technology and a state wide database, this longtime vision of the Register of Deeds office will become a reality.

If your event occurred in the State of Wisconsin, you may be able to walk into any Wisconsin Register of Deeds office to pick up your vital record.

At the onset in 2017, there will be limitations since not all of the records will be in the state database. Births from 1994, deaths from Sept. 1, 2013 and marriages

from May 18, 2015 to present will be available statewide. Older records will become available as the State Vital Records office completes back scanning and indexing projects.



## Treasurer

You have probably noticed there is a new face in the Treasurer's Office. Brenda Mulroy has joined the County Treasurer's office February 16<sup>th</sup>, filling the Account Clerk position.

Brenda has lived in Burnett County all her life. She was born and raised in Grantsburg.

Brenda and her husband John have lived near Clam Lake for the past 13 years. Brenda has three daughters; Cybil, who is a student at UW-Superior, Allison and Morgan are students at Webster.

Before coming to work at Burnett County, Brenda has worked in

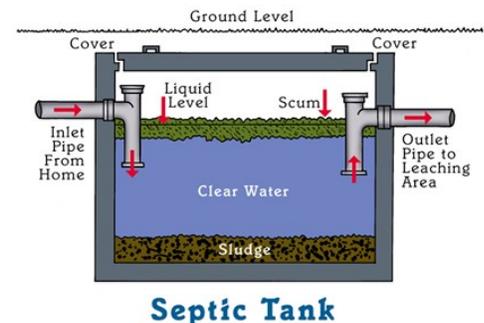
the banking/financial sector for 17 years. She also was elected to Treasurer for the Town of Meenon 9 years ago. In her free time Brenda enjoys cheering for her kids at sporting events and working on the family's hobby farm.

## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism

Nutrition Program – March is National Nutrition Month. For the past 10 years second grade teachers have requested lessons about the food groups/MyPlate during the month of March. This year there are 9 classrooms and about 150 students who are learning about healthy food choices in each food group and getting samples of foods from each food group. So far children have sampled Greek yogurt parfaits (featuring the milk group), garlic humus with baby carrots, peanut powder (add water to make peanut butter) (featuring the protein group), and peanut butter banana cracker snacks as an easy do it yourself snack for second graders to make. MyPlate tip sheets are sent home to convey the classroom lesson and give parents tips for helping families eat healthy and stay active.

## Zoning/Land Information

- The first half of the 2016 Septic System maintenance reminders are being sent out at the end of March, the second half will be sent out in July
- Holding tanks require maintenance every 12 months, all other types of systems require maintenance every 36 months
- The reminders are sent to those that are due for maintenance in 2016



## Report: WI Voter I.D — Make Sure You Have it Now

MADISON, Wis. – The Boy Scouts' motto "Be Prepared" is a good one to keep in mind leading up to the state's presidential primary on April 5th, according to Helen Marks Dicks, state issues advocacy director with AARP Wisconsin. She says it seems two camps have emerged regarding Wisconsin's newly-enforced law requiring a photo ID to vote: those who are worried they won't have proper ID, and those who aren't concerned, but should be. Dicks says don't wait, take action now. Call your city or county clerk and find out if your ID will be sufficient. "Because if you do it now, you either are going to end up assured that you are ready, or if you need to do something, you have time to do it," she states. "You shouldn't start fretting about this the week before the election." Dicks says it would be

a shame if voters were turned away at the polls simply because they didn't take time to familiarize themselves with the new law and have the proper ID to vote. AARP Wisconsin has posted the basics on its website, or voters can get information by calling the state's Voter Help Line at 1-866-VOTE-WIS. Dicks says many families will have an older member, like Great Uncle Ole, who says he doesn't need to have ID because he's voted at the same place for 50 years and "everybody knows him." "The ladies at the polling place are going to be very nice to him," Dicks assures. "They're going to say, 'Ole, we're so happy to see you, but sorry, we can't let you vote unless you have one of the approved identifications.'" Dicks adds in many ways, senior citizens are the most vulnerable when it comes to having an ac-

ceptable voter ID, but says there's no reason to panic. "Call your city clerk or your county clerk, and just ask them if what you have would work," she advises. "And if not, then you contact the Department of Motor Vehicles. Do it step by step. You might find you are not someone who has to go forward and get a new ID." In most cases, a Wisconsin driver's license is sufficient. But as Dicks points out, senior citizens are among the most likely not to have a current driver's license. "But many of them have passports, and many of them have that kind of identification that they could use," she points out. "And even if your driver's license has expired, as long as it was good on 11-4-2014, it's still good for the purposes of letting you vote."

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