



Issue 26

County Administration Newsletter

Vision & Stewardship

May 2016

Administration

On June 9th, the County will hold a budget kick-off meeting with all department heads. While it may seem premature, the creation of the budget takes several months to complete. Not to mention that the annual budget is the most important document approved by the County Board. Beginning last year, the County started approving budget guidelines which provides a lens for department as they prepare their annual budgets for consideration. While not a complete list, here are several of the 2017

budget guidelines adopted by the County Board in May:

- Reduce tax levy supported operational budgets by 1.5-2%, with a focus on non-essential and non-mandated services
- Plan on no more than \$45K in increased tax levy due to levy limits
- Provide between 2-3.5% wage value for staff
- No net new positions
- Create a two-year budget showing projections for 2018

- Invest \$1 million dollars into road infrastructure
- Reduce the reliance of investment income for operational revenue by 30%
- Review health care plans with a target reduction of 2% in County expense.

In July, Standing Committees will begin to review and vet the proposed department budgets. The annual budget affects all of us, so watch the process and learn what is in your department's budget.

- Nate

Aging and Disability Resource Center

ADRC of NW WI Enhances Transportation Program

By: Tonya Eichelt, Supervisor, ADRC of NW WI

Last November you may remember reading an article in The Voice about a wheelchair accessible van the ADRC of NW WI purchased. Well, this new van will be up and running starting July 1, 2016. We plan to use this van primarily for socialization trips, shopping, errands and spe-

cial events. These trips will be open to elderly and disabled individuals, living in the community, in Polk and Burnett Counties.

To accommodate each area and decrease the amount of travel time needed to pick up each individual who has reserved a seat in the van, we have scheduled specific days for different communities throughout Polk and Burnett counties. For example, on July

11th individuals residing in the Grantsburg area will have the opportunity to join us on the van for a day of errands and shopping.

Trips for special events will be scheduled for each county. For example, we have a trip planned for Burnett County residents to go to the Barron Farmers' Market. However, for these special trips our agency reserves the right to focus on the area of the

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county where there is the most interest and accommodate others as we are able. We envision this van will fill a need in the community but it is a new service so please be patient as we work out the kinks!

Details of the enhanced transportation service:

- Co-payment of \$1.00 per trip will be initially charged and will be accepted at the time of service.
- Local trips (in-town) to run errands as well as longer trips to bigger shopping areas will be offered.
- Trips are scheduled and coordinated by the ADRC with special requests being considered as time and resources allow.
- Interested participants can call the ADRC to reserve a seat on the van at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled trip of interest.

- Trips will be advertised on the ADRC website and in The Voice.

Burnett County Residents

- **July 11**
9 AM - 2 PM
Grantsburg area residents shopping/errands and farmers market (farmers market begins at 12:00 PM)
- **July 12**
9 AM to 2 PM
Siren area residents shopping/errands
- **July 13**
10 AM - 2 PM
Tribal Caregivers Conference

- **July 14**
(market opens at 2:00 PM)
Barron Farmers' Market
- **July 21**
11 AM - 5 PM
Alpha Farmers' Market and Burnett Dairy Cheese Store: (Farmers' Market 3-5 PM)
- **July 26**
9 AM - 2 PM
Webster area residents shopping/errands
- **July 28**
9 AM - 2 PM
A&H area residents shopping/errands



<http://wifarmersmarkets.org>

County Clerk

If you are planning a trip where you will be crossing the borders of Canada or Mexico or flying out of the country you will need to apply for a passport or passport card for travel. A passport card, at a smaller fee, can be used for persons crossing the borders of Canada and Mexico by ground travel and to a few

U.S. Territories by air travel. Otherwise a passport book is required for travel to other countries.

The County Clerk's office is a certified passport acceptance facility with three certified passport acceptance agents. We provide this service Monday

through Friday during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

When a person applies for a new passport for themselves or a child, you must first complete the DS-11 Application for a U.S. Passport. You can fill out an application on line at the

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U.S. Department of State website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>, print and bring to our office in person along with the required documents for one of our agents to complete, collect fees and send for processing. You can also get a blank copy from our office to fill out and complete at your convenience before finishing the process at our office. There may be other additional forms and/or documents required to be submitted along with an application, depending on each individual circumstance, that may be necessary to obtain your passport.

To renew your passport if it is close to expiring, or has been expired for less than five years,

you are able to complete the DS-82 U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals. By going to the above mentioned U.S. Department of State website, you can fill out the application on line, print and send the application along with any documents necessary and the applicable fee to the appropriate address. You can also obtain a form from our office. For renewals, it is not necessary to have a passport acceptance facility process and mail the application and documents. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit all documents for renewal.

Whether a passport is new for a first time applicant or renewal, age 16 above, the passport does not expire for 10 years. If under the age of 16, a passport is only valid for five years.

With all passport applications, it is necessary to have a photo taken and attached to your application. Photos must meet special requirements which are outlined in the instructions of the DS-11 and DS-82. Our office also provides photo service that meets those requirements for a \$10.00 fee.

Complete information on applying for a passport, new or renewal and specific requirements, can be found on the U.S. Department of State website or on the County Clerk page under passports at <http://www.burnettcounty.com/index.aspx?NID=434>.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact our office at 715-349-2173 or email whinrichs@burnettcounty.org.

Emergency Management

Heat Related Deaths ARE Preventable
LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK

The temperature in your car can quickly become deadly!

Outside Temperature 80°

Inside 99° Time Elapsed: 10 Minutes	Inside 109° Time Elapsed: 20 Minutes
Inside 114° Time Elapsed: 30 Minutes	Inside 123° Time Elapsed: 60 Minutes

weather.gov/heat

Forestry & Parks

With our summer season beginning Memorial Day weekend, the Forest and Parks staff has been working hard to get all our parks, boat landings, trails and our youth camp ready. We have added gravel and rock to a few different boat landings, checked signing on trails, leveled and drug the Gandy Dancer Trail and opened up the youth camp to get it ready for our first visitors of the year. We have completed a couple of ATV trail graveling projects in the last month and look forward to having a safe ATV season.

With all this work currently being done, there are always things that can be improved or need fixing. We ask that if you see something that needs some attention, please do not hesitate to give us a call and let us know about it. Sometimes we are not aware of an issue, and being notified by you allows us to get it fixed sooner.

With all that being said, the biggest news for the Forestry & Parks Department is that our new Assistant Administrator, Bryson Grubbs, started with us full-time on May 23rd. We have

been a person short in our department since the first part of November 2015. We worked short staffed for about six months while we waited for Bryson to finish his schooling. Bryson is a high school graduate from Spooner and a College graduate from UW Stevens Point with a degree in Forest Management. We are excited to have this young man in our department and working for Burnett County. Please help us welcome Bryson to Burnett County.

Have safe and enjoyable
Memorial Day Weekend!!

Health & Human Services

The Month of May is Recognized as Foster Care Month

As part of this month, we would like to recognize and celebrate the families within Burnett County who open their homes and hearts to children who are in need of a safe place. During a recent ceremony held at the state capital, the Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson stated: "Foster families are some of our communities' most unsung heroes. Foster families take in children during their darkest hour, shelter them and

give them love. They do this knowing that in all likelihood they will one day say goodbye. Despite knowing how difficult that will be, they welcome birth families into their lives and support them on their journey towards reunification."

Currently, in Wisconsin, there are about 7,300 children in out of home care. The Children and Families Unit is responsible for the licensing of families who are motivated and interested in fostering.

Foster care is 24-hour care provided by licensed foster parents

for children who cannot live with their parents because they are unsafe, have special care or treatment needs, or other circumstances exist where parents or family are unable to care for them. County human service agencies license and oversee these placements. Generally, placement in foster care is temporary and intended to give the child's family time to make necessary changes so that the child can live safely in his or her home and community. Most children in foster care return home to their families.

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When children cannot return home, they find permanence through placement with relatives, adoption, or other means.

It is not hard to become a foster parent, but it will take a little time. First you need to contact the licensing agency (Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services). The licensing worker will need to get to know you better through interviews and through assessing paperwork you fill out. You will be required to do background checks and attend training. Deciding if you are ready is not a decision you can or should make quickly or lightly. Take some time to assess your feelings and consider the responsibilities of a foster parent, as well as the goals of foster care.

Basic responsibilities of a foster parent include:

- Providing a nurturing environment, as well as limits
- Have children participate in daily activities, as well as around the house
- Have a routine
- Provide day-to-day care and supervision of a child
- Arrange and take the children to medical, dental, and, if needed, mental health appointments

- Support a family interaction plan for the children and their birth parents
- Communicate with the school and keep up on the child’s progress

For additional information on becoming a foster parent, please contact the

Burnett County

Foster Care Coordinator at

(715) 349-7600



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Most everyone can identify at least one family member, friend, or loved one that struggles with a mental illness. What isn’t recognized is that everybody has mental health and that we all need to take care of it. One of the first steps in this process is breaking down the stigma that accompanies mental illness, and recognizes that everybody has good days and bad days. We also need to be aware that some people deal with life stresses differently and there are many different roots that can cause mental illness. With that being said, be aware that signs of mental illness comes in many different forms; anger, tiredness, isolation, even euphoria. The

fact is, the more we know the better equipped we are to help another person with their thoughts and feelings, as well as ourselves.

Mental Health America has put together a weekly calendar of things everyone can do to take better care of themselves, and everyone can benefit from self care. Self care is important for everyone and can help in preventing burn out at the job place and at home. We can better handle stressful days and have improved overall general health. Self care is very important and is often the advice we give others, but something we may not encourage in ourselves.

As we go forward it is important to know that 1 in 4 people will experience a mental illness this year, fifty percent of the population will have a diagnosable mental illness in their life time, and twenty five percent will develop a mental illness in their teen years. However, there are ways to help manage life with a mental illness and step one would be to get screened. The longer we wait in taking steps to get screened, and start the process of getting better, the more it may cost in overall health and relationships.

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If you, are or someone you know, is struggling with a mental illness, it is important to get screened. You can do a home test if you go to MHAScreening.org. A diagnosis is not provided, but this is a tool that can help you, or someone you know, get started in the right direction. Being diagnosed can be a difficult process, but the earlier a mental illness is detected the better the results are

for the individual and quicker the path is to a personal well-being.

Burnett County may be a smaller community, but there are resources available to those in need. Burnett County has a 24-hour crisis line [1-888-636-6655](tel:1-888-636-6655) for those experiencing an acute crisis, and individual and group counseling is offered through several counseling

agencies in Burnett and bordering counties. For additional information regarding these resources please contact the

Burnett County Behavioral Health Department at [715-349-7600](tel:715-349-7600) or log onto the Healthy Burnett (HealthyBurnett.org) and/or Burnett County (BurnettCounty.com) websites.

Highway Department

It's hard to believe I've been on the job for six months now. Time sure passes by faster as the years go by. I'm sure being super busy trying to learn this new role was a factor in this as well. In a way it's been like learning a new language. Working in government is certainly different than working in the private sector but ever so slowly I feel like I am adapting to this new environment. Each day offers different challenges and learning opportunities which keeps me very interested and engaged.

Today I got a visit from Siren School bus #46. This was the route I took to and from school everyday when I was a young-

ster. The students brought us a nice thank-you card and a cake with a big yellow school bus decoration on top to show



their appreciation for the highway department and to thank us for making the roads safe.

By the looks of the photo I think maybe a couple of them we not so thankful and would have preferred some school closings

instead... It was certainly a pleasure to get such a visit. I brought the card and the cake to the crew at quitting time. They all stuck around after punching out to enjoy the generous offering. I could tell they felt a sense of pride in their work.

So for those days we ask ourselves if this role in public service is worth it or not - if the grass is truly greener on the other side - shall we think of days like today when those who we made a difference for

show us how much they appreciate our service. There's nothing more rewarding than knowing your hard work made a difference.

Land and Water Conservation

We've been receiving many calls about high water levels and everyone asks why are the water levels in some of Burnett County lakes so high? We didn't have much snow and it's been dry, right? Wrong! Most of Burnett County lakes are driven by the ground water levels, and the recharge of the groundwater which occurs primarily in spring and fall between the frozen ground period and the start of the growing season. The lakes that are high right now are lakes fed by groundwater and are called seepage lakes (sometimes called spring-fed lakes). Generally, they don't have a surface outlet, although some may have wetlands along their fringe that move water away from the lake. The other general type of lake is a drainage lake, which has surface flow in and out and generally follows the short term rainfall patterns. Seepage lakes, on the other hand, generally react slowly and in long term

groundwater trends, which can lag the long term rainfall trends quite substantially. So we may have to have a couple of years of drought before a seepage lake will substantially lower its water level.

Although we didn't have much snow last winter, we went into the fall of 2015 with high ground water from the previous fall and spring, with the rainfall this spring soaking in as well. Whether you live on the waterbody or just recreate on the lake, there are a few things you, your neighbors, and lake associations can do. Native plantings along the shoreline have a strong root structure to hold everything in place, so keep or restore your near shore area. Leave the aquatic vegetation grow in front of your property. The plants act as a wave break and they absorb nutrients from runoff as well. Be careful



when boating, observing the "Slow no wake" rules and encourage your neighbors and lake association to promote slow no wake. If all else fails and you're shoreline is eroding, you may have to armor your shore with biological or hard armor to protect it from the waves.

So what's the bottom line? We're going to have high water, especially in our seepage lakes, until we get an extended dry period when the plants are actively growing. Since a lake is a living, growing, ever-changing ecosystem, this type of fluctuation is normal, and just something that we must learn to roll with.

Maintenance and Grounds

The emergency power generator at the Government Center will not power the entire building during a power outage. It is limited to providing power to the third floor Jail area, most of the basement, and what seems like some random circuits and lights here and there on the first and second floors. None of the primary ventilation fans and main floor air conditioning, or the public elevator, are on the 'generator side' of the power distribution system. Certain things like the water well and the Jail's elevator need to be manually switched in order to operate while on generator. Even so, the Jail's elevator starting current peaks out the entire capacity of the generator, so generally, that never will be switched unless there is a 'Jail emergency' within the power outage. *(Continued on Page 8)*

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Typically, the generator does start automatically after about a 4-5 second outage, and should be online 8 to 10 seconds after the initial outage began. Depending on the load, there is enough fuel for 24-36 hours of operation.

Critical items like the Dispatch Center's 911 systems, the computer servers, the HVAC controls, and Siren Telephone's area fiber interface are on one of the two 7 kVA UPS units. The new radio system has it's own UPS. Things like the building's telephone switch and system and the door access system are only on the generator circuits but have batteries in them until the generator starts or up to 30 minutes.

Larger rooms without windows such as the court room, rooms 160 and 165, along with the stairwells have emergency battery ballasts in a select few fluorescent lamp fixtures, to provide some light when things go dark.

The 1964 (that is not a typo) reconditioned Kohler 75 kW, 260 amp/phase generator is test run monthly and is serviced annually.

The set up we have was fine in 1984 with the mechanical and manual operating systems, and office functions of those days. It does seem to be needlessly complicated and underpowered today but it would cost too much to streamline and upgrade. The good news is that commercial electrical power systems are pretty reliable in the United States.

Register in Probate/Juvenile Clerk

The Register in Probate and Juvenile Clerk's Office handles all confidential court case filings, including: Guardianship, Mental Health, Adoption and Juvenile case types (such as Children in Need of Protection and Services, Juvenile Injunctions, Ordinance Violations, Delinquencies, and Termination of Parental Rights). In addition, Probate court cases which are open records, are also

filed in this office. Probate is the court-supervised process for transferring a decedent's assets to those entitled to receive them. The process ensures that notice is properly given according to the Wisconsin Statutes, that all debts, taxes, and expenses are paid, and that the assets are distributed in accordance with the last Will or to the heirs as determined by statute if there is no Will. The Wis-

consin Register in Probate Association website offers valuable information concerning Probate, as well as Guardianship, Adoption, and Wills. The website also offers links to forms needed to file a case and links to other websites which may be beneficial. The Wisconsin Register in Probate Association's website can be found at www.wriipa.org.

Zoning/Land Information

Over the next three months there will be many more ordinance amendments taking place. The shoreland zoning rules in Chapter 30 will be modified to comply with 2015 WI Act 55, 2015 WI Act 167 and 2015 WI Act 391. The shoreland ordinances need to be in compliance by October 1, 2016. There will also be amendments in Chapter 30 for the recently DATCP approved Farmland Preservation Plan. *(Continued on Page 9)*

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We may also be looking at some amendments in Chapter 18 to deal with nuisance properties. The flood-plain ordinance and boathouse rules were approved in March.

PLSS remonumentation and maintenance is taking place in the Town of Oakland (40-16) and the Town of Anderson (37-20). The Town of Lafollette (38-15) is now completely parcel mapped, and is available on the county GIS website <http://burnettcowi.wgxtreme.com/>. We recently added the Airport Protection Zoning layer to the GIS website. This is for the Burnett County Airport next to the Government Center. This layer can be found in the Land Management Layers group.

Veterans' Services

CVSO, Doug Stubbe recently attended the Nat'l CVSO Assoc Conference where there were numerous speakers from the VA Central Office in Washington DC (Benefits and Health Care), the Dept of Labor and from various attorneys who represent veterans in appeals. From DOL, the speaker shared that currently 1 in 10 of all veterans is female, 1 in 6 veterans under age 35 is female and that 1 in 63 women is a veteran. The point is that we have more and more women serving in the military. However, despite these increased numbers, they are less likely to stand up and identify themselves as a veteran like male veterans do. Also, a higher percentage of female veterans use VA Health Care vs male veterans. VA Medical

Centers now have women health care clinics. The intent is to staff these clinics with all female staff. The challenge is finding female doctors, PAs/NPs, nurses, etc. to work for the VA in these clinics.

Another area of interest was a discussion about Alternative Therapy. They talked about animals, music, art, recreation, etc. This is exactly what we are doing here in partnership with Nat'l Park Service for Vets On The River and Fly Fishing. We also partner with organizations in other parts of the state such as recently with our 2nd Annual Veteran Spring Turkey Hunt down in Sparta. We originally had 36 veterans sign up, and for various reasons, mostly health related, we ultimately had

22 hunters, 4 of which were from Burnett County. Alternative therapy allows the veterans to find peace outside formal medical care. In group settings they find support amongst people who have similar experiences, but outside the military and VA. Often times, it serves as a first step in realizing a positive life outside the military. In 2012, when Burnett County hosted the State CVSO conference, the Vets On The River program began with an all female veteran activity on the Nameka-gon River. That activity continues every year, scheduled for Jun 11-12 this year.

The County Veterans Service Officer can assist you

JULY

- JUNE**
- 6th: D-Day, Operation Overlord (1944)
 - 14th: Flag Day, Army Day (1775)
 - 22nd: Pledge of Allegiance Recognized (1942)
 - 22nd: GI Bill signed (1946)
 - 25th: Korean War began (1950)
 - 28th: WWI ends (1919)



- 2nd: U.S. Army Air Corps established (1926)
- 4th: Independence Day
- 12th: President Lincoln approves Medal of Honor (1862)
- 26th: Dept of Def created, USAF created (1947)
- 27th: Korean War Armistice (1953)
- 28th: WWI began (1914)