



Issue 43

# County Administration Newsletter

*Vision & Stewardship*

October 2017

## Administration

This month we held our second Healics Health Risk Assessment (HRA) event. Participants should begin to receive their confidential screening report in the mail within the next couple of weeks. These reports will be delivered to the mailing address you provided on your questionnaires and are sent to you directly from Healics.

The Report Delivery schedule is now available to you online. Employee participants: don't forget to sign up for your 15 minute appointment with a Healics Representative who will give a general overview of your results. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and get more information regarding the HRA! Participating spouses are

not required to complete the Report Delivery, but are encouraged to participate in order to gain the greatest benefit.

Please check you email for information and reminders regarding this and other important events and updates for Burnett County employees.

- *Nate*

## Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Aging and Disability Resource Center is starting the process to develop the Plan on Aging: 2019-2021. Every three years, we complete a strategic plan that serves as a platform to create, improve or expand programs and services for our local older adults. It is a requirement to receive the federal funding through the Older American Act, but it is also an opportunity to hear what people have to say. By identifying the needs in the community directly from those who would use the services, we know we are moving in the right direction. Goals are developed after many hours of brainstorming

and refining the vision. Our staff, management team, Aging Advisory Committees – as well as our ADRC Board – all participate in the development but most important is input from the community members.

The entire process will consist of surveys, listening sessions, work group discussions, and end with a public hearing. The survey process will be beginning soon. We will be working hard to connect with those in the community that need the services the most. The best way to accom-

plish this is to work with all of you (our county partners and board members) to help get the surveys out. We will be reaching out to you to spread the word/surveys and will appreciate any assistance you can extend. You will also be able to find information on this project in our monthly newsletter, *The Voice*, beginning with our December issue.

As always, we love to hear feedback from you as well! If you ever have questions or want to share your thoughts please

reach out to Laura or Dawn at 715-349-2100.



## Emergency Management

National Preparedness Month events were a success in Burnett County and we have a great number of people to thank for that. Polk-Burnett Operation Round-Up, Tribal Council of St. Croix Chippewa of Wisconsin, Burnett County Sentinel, Red Cross of Northwest Wisconsin, Sharron’s Webb Lake Charity, Corey Arnold State Farm Insurance Agency, Dairy Queen of Siren, and North Ambulance all donated funds or items to the cause.

The Webster Schools 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, Monica Gunderson, Rachel Derosier and Gina Simon, conducted a month long

unit on Personal Preparedness that included projects both in the classroom and at home around the dinner table.

200 reusable imprinted shopping bags, 50 food totes, 12 Lifestraw Family water purification units, 1 Emergency Fanny Pack, and lots of literature were distributed at Fourwinds Market and in drawings.

Burnett County employees were fantastic – Kari Letch’s design skills, Kim Johnson and Sabrina Naglosky’s tolerance for my requests, Angie Heyer and Ann Lane’s display items, Lynn Blahnik and Brenda Mulroy’s

juggling the accounts as Grants came in and Payments went out, and Tammy Chell’s help throughout the project all made it happen.

There is always the fear of missing someone and I’m sure this time is no different. So I apologize if I missed you . I thank you all.

Fall is upon us and now is the time to make sure that your home and vehicles are ready for winter weather and the heating season. You might think about.....

- Having your furnace serviced
- Checking the batteries in your CO and Smoke detectors
- Checking your window and door seals
- Packing your winter vehicle kit
- Digging out the mittens and ear muffs!

Take care and be safe, everyone!

-JT



## Highway Department

### New Highway Operations Manager!

Jeremy Burton isn’t *new* to the Highway Department, but recently his duties have changed dramatically. A vacancy was created when previous Highway Operations Manager Jeff Scanlon desired to step back from that position and return to the highway crew. Both Commissioner Hoefs and Administrator Ehalt looked to fill his position from a talented pool of internal employees. Interviews were held on September 27, 2017 with the selection of Jeremy being made. His first official day began on October 9<sup>th</sup> with a phasing in of his duties to follow. Jeremy can be reached @ (715) 349-2285 x-1457. Please welcome Jeremy in his *new* role!



## Health & Human Services

October is a good time of year to remind everyone about the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). This program is administered through the Department of Health and Human Services.

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 programs provide energy assistance payments to over 211,000 households and weatherization services to over 6,000 households in Wisconsin each year.

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.

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

The amount of the non-heating assistance benefit varies depending on a variety of factors, as outlined under heating assistance, the non-heating assistance benefit is most often paid directly to the household energy supplier.

### Furnace Repair and Replacement

Emergency heating system assistance can provide services to eligible homeowners if their furnace stops working. This may include payment for repairs or in some situations a total replacement of a non-operating system.

### Weatherization Assistance

The weatherization program helps reduce energy consumption. If your residence qualifies for weatherization services you may receive one or more of the following: insulation, sealing air leaks, heating system updates, and energy-saving products.

### 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 may be eligible to receive assistance.

Household Size	Three Month Gross Income	Annual Income
1	\$6650.25	\$26,601
2	\$8,696.25	\$34,785
3	\$10,742.50	\$42,970
4	\$12,788.75	\$51,155
5	\$14,835	\$59,340
6	\$16,881.25	\$67,525
7	\$17,264.75	\$69,059

Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services will begin taking applications for energy assistance beginning October 2, 2017. Call 349-7600 to schedule an appointment. Office hours are Mon-Fri. 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

## Forestry and Parks

On October 5 & 6 Burnett County was the host of Log-A-Load for Kids®



Log-A-Load for Kids® is a nationwide campaign where loggers and other professionals from the forest industry donate their time, along with the revenues of some of the timber harvested, to help make hospital

stays easier for children through a donation to the Children's Miracle Network. Another positive that comes from this event is that it's an educational program to introduce students to forestry, both its historical and modern-day processes.

In two days, 13 different schools brought 950 students to Burnett County! They toured stations that were set up with all the different aspects of the forest industry: the history of horse logging; tree identification; wildlife habitat; tree marking; different aspects of the operation showing the processor, forwarder,

and whole tree chipping equipment; the usage of drones; and also the DNR fire fighting operations with a dozer and fire trucks. Everyone was also served a hot lunch while they were there! The Forest & Parks Department Staff were all involved, whether being a tour guide to a group of students or helping at the lunch tent. It's really quite an event with some very positive results!



## Zoning/Land Information

Zoning permits are down slightly compared to 2016. YTD through Sept 2016 was 960 permits, YTD through Sept 2017 is 898 permits. Even though the permits are down slightly, as of the first week of October, the budgeted revenue for the Zoning Dept has been met for 2017.

Our GIS mapping website had 2,801 unique users during the period from August 30, 2017 to September 25, 2017. These 2,801 unique users were located in 478 different cities throughout the world. Some cities include; Brussels - Belgium, Sidney - Australia, Beijing - China and London - England.

## Land and Water Conservation

### 2017 WISCONSIN DEER DONATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Deer Donation Program will be continuing Wisconsin's autumn tradition of helping those in need. Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated over 90,000 deer which were processed into over 3.6 million pounds of ground venison. Wisconsin has a network of venison donation partners including: county land and water conservation departments, food pantries, charitable organizations, Hunt for the Hungry, USDA - Wildlife Services and participating processors who all help implement and administer the program.

For Burnett County - Lock and Load is the deer processor that participates in the donation program.

**Contact info is:**  
**Lock and Load**  
**21125 East River Road**  
**Grantsburg**  
**715-488-2931**

To locate a processor outside of Burnett County please follow this link to the DNR website for a statewide list of participants: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/documents/donation.pdf>

#### How to donate your deer

Donate any legally harvested deer from Wisconsin by dropping it off at a participating processor by January 31, 2018. Deer harvested outside of Wisconsin cannot be donated through the Wisconsin deer donation program.

1. Prior to donating, field dress the deer, register it and write your registration confirmation number down. You will need the registration confirmation number handy in order to fill out the hunter donation log sheet that the meat processor maintains.
2. Call first! Contact one of the participating processors before dropping the deer off to verify the processor has space to accept your deer.
3. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free. (Head and/or antlers may be



removed for mounting.) Please handle the carcass as if it were destined for your own table. A couple bags of ice placed in the cavity will help preserve the carcass in warm weather.

When dropping your deer off at a processor, please complete the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. We'll do the rest. The donated deer will be processed and the venison will be distributed to charitable organizations to help feed Wisconsin's needy.

Please consider switching to non-toxic ammunition as even a very small amount of lead in a deer carcass may be toxic to humans and wildlife. Page 22 of the 2017 Deer Hunting Regulations booklet lists recommendations to reduce the risk of lead in venison.

If you have any questions or need further information please contact Cindy Blonk, Burnett

County Wildlife Damage Technician at 715.349.2186.



## University of Wisconsin-Extension and Tourism



The new 4-H Year started October 1<sup>st</sup>, but it's never too late to join 4-H!

Burnett County 4-H is an inclusive community that offers young people the opportunity to take part in projects like:

- Communication arts including drama, music, and photography
- Foods & Nutrition
- Youth Leadership
- And more than 100 other projects to explore

Through experiential education opportunities, 4-H teaches young people in 5 year-old kindergarten through one year past high school life skills like:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Citizenship
- Public speaking

4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence, know how to work well with others, can endure through challenges, and will stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born - they're grown.

4-H program's hands-on approach gives young people guidance, tools, and encouragement, and then puts them in the driver's seat to make great things happen. Independent research proves the unparalleled impact of the 4-H experience.

4-H youth learn by doing. As part of clubs, camps, and more, young people are engaged in community service, contribute to their club, and express themselves through various art forms. They grow in a secure environment with guidance from adult mentors and other youth.

To enroll in one of Burnett County's six 4-H clubs, visit our county website at: <https://burnett.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/> or stop by the UW-Extension Office in the basement of the Burnett County Government Center. Beth Rank, 4-H Youth & Family Extension Educator or Beth Greiff, Support Staff, can help you learn more about the clubs, projects, and officially enroll in 4-H. Enrollments are accepted year-round and the official 4-H year started October 1<sup>st</sup>. Come join the fun!

### 4-H'ers are...

4X

more likely to give back to their communities

2X

more likely to make healthier choices

2X

more likely to participate in STEM activities