

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
DANIEL P. VRAKAS



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Dear Friends,

The state of Wisconsin's Transportation Fund has lost its integrity, and it is vital that the purpose of the fund and the trust of Wisconsin taxpayers is restored. The segregated transportation fund, which is mostly funded (90%) by the gas tax and vehicle registration fees, is intended to be used for transportation infrastructure building and improvements. However, over the past decade the state of Wisconsin has transferred approximately \$1.2 billion from the fund to the state's general fund to fill the holes in the state budget and avoid making tough budget decisions.

It is time to lock up these funds so that the segregated transportation fund is used for the purpose of which it is intended. When a taxpayer pays the gas tax or their vehicle registration fee they should be confident that their dollars are going to fund transportation projects. So, this month I introduced an ordinance to the Waukesha County Board requesting an advisory referendum appear on the November ballot asking taxpayers should "the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?" Meaning that all transportation fund dollars collected be used solely to fund transportation projects.

Most state constitutions include a provision preventing the raid of transportation funds; Wisconsin is one of only a handful of states still allowing this fiscally unsound practice to continue. The ordinance has passed the County Board's Public Works and Executive Committees unanimously and a vote on the ordinance by the full board will take place on June 23.

Sincerely,

515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC320  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
262.548.7902 office • 262.896.8510 fax  
[www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov)



**Generac Power Systems, Inc. was 2009's Business of the Year Award winner.**

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE AWARDS

Nominations are now being sought for the 15th annual Waukesha County Executive Awards program to recognize organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors. An independent panel of judges will assess how each nominee contributes to the success of Waukesha County and the people they serve. At the awards luncheon, the Business of the Year and Government Agency of the Year winners will receive awards. In addition to the award, U.S. Bank will provide the Large Non-Profit of the Year with a \$4,000 grant and the Small Non-Profit of the Year with a \$2,000 grant.

If you know of an organization that deserves to be recognized as one of the best, please submit an awards application by Friday, July 23 at 4:30 p.m. Awards criteria and nomination form can be downloaded from the County's website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov) or can be obtained by calling the County Executive's office at (262) 548-7902.

### UW-EXTENSION STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Waukesha County UW-Extension is hosting this year's UW-Extension statewide meeting. The two-day conference, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, will take place at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee.

The event's keynote speaker, Mark O'Connell, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Counties Association, will open the conference on Tuesday morning. Tuesday evening will include entertainment by the Waukesha County LaTEENo 4-H club dancers, and the evening will commence with a silent and live auction. County Executive Dan Vrakas will be acting as auctioneer for the evening's auction.

Wednesday's events will include a number of presentations and break-out sessions. The day's featured speaker is Emilio De Torre from Social Media Wisconsin. De Torre will present how to reach underserved audiences through social media.

For more information on the conference, including the full schedule of events, please visit [www.uwex.edu/ces/waceconference](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/waceconference).



**Waukesha County LaTEENo 4-H dancers perform at the Waukesha County Fair.**

*“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”*

## THANK YOU TO DONORS

For over 13 years the **Milwaukee Brewers Foundation** has provided over 34,000 game tickets to the Department of Health and Human Services for foster families, disabled adults and others in need of support. This donation is estimated to have a dollar value of over half-million dollars.

Upon its grand opening, **Roundy's Metro Market** in Brookfield provided \$2,500 to support the Aging and Disability Resource Center's Brookfield Senior Dining Center. These dollars help provide meals to seniors age 60+ in the City of Brookfield and surrounding areas.

**ProHealth Care** provided over \$7,000 in support of the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Prescription Drug Collection Program. This donation made it possible for the organization, a part of Waukesha County UW-Extension, to hold the collection at six different collection sites countywide.

## WAUKESHA COUNTY BEACHES NOW OPEN

On June 5, Waukesha County Park System's six beaches opened for the summer. Come play Frisbee, grill out, get a tan, or just relax and go swimming. The possibilities are endless!

Beach hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends, with lifeguards on duty daily. County Park entrance fees are \$2.50 on weekdays and \$5.00 on weekends/holidays. Beaches are included in the park entrance fee. Annual park entrance stickers are available for \$25.00 for county residents, \$36.00 for non-county residents and \$12.50 for senior citizens. Waukesha County Parks' beach locations:

**Fox Brook Park** – Brookfield – Spacious 25-acre lake, with beach house, pedal boat rentals, and a concession stand.

**Menomonee Park** – Menomonee Falls – 16-acre Quarry Lake, with beach house and concession stand.

**Minooka Park** – Waukesha – 4-acre swimming pond, with beach house and concession stand.

**Muskego Park** – Muskego – 2-acre swimming pond, with beach house and concession stand.

**Mukwonago Park** – Mukwonago – 16-acre spring-fed pond, with beach house.

**Naga-Waukee Park** – Hartland – Beach on Nagawicka Lake, with boardwalk, beach house and concession stand.



Beach goers enjoy Fox Brook Park, pictured above.

*“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”*

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## BUDGET HEARINGS

As part of the budget creation process, Waukesha County holds a series of Budget Town Hall meetings to communicate with residents on our budget activities. These meetings are essential in the budget process as they provide an opportunity for stakeholders – the public – to provide input and feedback on how the county is doing.

This year, Waukesha County will be holding three Budget Town Hall Presentations. The dates and locations are outlined below:

**Tuesday, July 13, 2010** – New Berlin Public Library, 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, July 22, 2010** – Town Bank, 850 W. North Shore Drive, Hartland, 9:00 a.m.

**Monday, July 26, 2010** – Waukesha County Courthouse, 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, 6:00 p.m.



**Follow County Executive Dan Vrakas on Twitter!**

**Username:  
CoExecDanVrakas**

## BUDGET KICK-OFF

Earlier this month, Waukesha County officially kicked-off the 2011 Budget planning and creation process. Over the next three months, the County's budget team and the County Executive will meet with department heads and County personnel in an effort to create the Executive Budget. Also participating in these meetings are Waukesha County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, Waukesha County Finance Committee Chair Supervisor Pat Haukohl and County Board Committee Chairs. This unique partnership maintains open and clear communication between the executive and legislative branches at the County as well as strengthens this relationship during the budget process. The County Executive will present the Executive Budget to the County Board at the end of September and final adoption by the County Board is expected in November.

In creating the budget, Waukesha County focuses on maintaining high quality services at a low cost to taxpayers through efficiency. Waukesha County is in a better position than most other counties in the state to handle this tough climate and we will continue to provide the outstanding services that we are known for to the residents of this County.

*“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”*