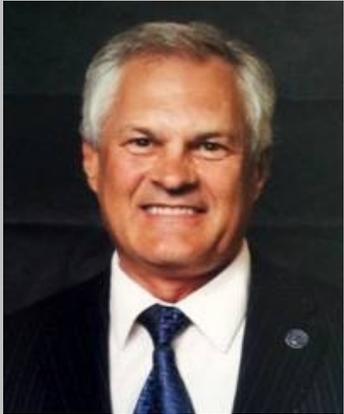


FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

Last week, Waukesha County's Bond Rating Agencies, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Rating, traveled from Chicago and New York to the County to both evaluate our County finances and learn more about Waukesha County. As part of their trip, the agencies' analysts toured various Waukesha County businesses, saw major capital projects and the natural beauty our County has to offer.

I was so proud to show the agencies all that we have here in Waukesha County – outstanding businesses and schools and our beautiful parks, lakes and other natural resources. We have much to be proud of here.

We remain one of a select few counties in the nation with the coveted AAA/Aaa bond rating. We are the third largest and one of the fastest growing counties in the State.

According to an independent study by the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance, Waukesha County has the lowest per capita spending among all of Wisconsin's counties. Additionally, Waukesha County is one of only 10 counties in the state without a countywide sales tax.

I am so proud of Waukesha County and know that we will continue to be recognized for our achievements in the years to come.

Sincerely,

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION

Waukesha County will be holding a prescription drug collection on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The collection, which is the fifth for the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities (DFC) Coalition, is an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings in Waukesha County as well as help protect local waterways.

Seven sites will host collections on Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **Brookfield:** Brookfield Recycling Center
- **Menomonee Falls:** Community Memorial Hospital
- **Mukwonago:** D.N. Greenwald Center
- **Muskego:** Muskego Police Department
- **Oconomowoc:** Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital
- **Pewaukee:** WCTC
- **Waukesha:** Waukesha State Bank, Downtown Branch

Residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted and unused medications to any one of the seven locations on April 27th. Prescription medications, over the counter medications, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, herbals and pet medications will all be accepted by pharmacists on the day of the event. Residents are asked not to bring biohazardous material, sharps, mercury, personal hygiene products or household hazardous waste.

For more information on the collection, Waukesha County residents are encouraged to visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection.

REDUCE YOUR WASTE STREAM CHALLENGE RESULTS

One-hundred and thirty-five families in Waukesha and Brookfield recently completed the largest Reduce Your Waste Stream Challenge competition ever facilitated by the Waukesha County recycling program. Nearly 600 people took part in weighing their trash and recyclables for four weeks as they reduced, reused and recycled as much as possible compared to their baseline weights before the Challenge started.

All families achieved success with the Challenge. The Waukesha families reduced their trash 22% over the month-long project and increased their recycling 3%. Brookfield families reduced their trash 18% and increased their recycling 33%.

Using the statistics from the Challenge, the Waukesha County recycling program estimates if the participating families maintained their pace of reducing and recycling for an entire year, they would throw away 30,000 less pounds of trash to the landfill and recycle an additional 13,000 pounds of material. If all families in the 25 participating communities reduced and recycled at the same rate, it would translate to reducing 10,000 tons of trash and over 4 tons more recyclables processed and sold as new products.

The Waukesha County recycling staff mentored the families to succeed with the project. Families received weekly emails with tips and encouragement and also had the opportunity to ask questions through the Challenge blog. Among the effective methods families incorporated into their households were composting food scraps, purchasing only items with recyclable packaging and considering alternatives for items normally thrown in the trash.

To view the results of this Challenge, read the blog, and learn about how your school or community group can participate in the Challenge, visit ReduceYourWasteStream.org.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

WAUKESHA COUNTY STRATEGIC PLANNING

Waukesha County has been engaged in Strategic Planning for nearly 20 years. In 2012 and 2013, Waukesha County implemented a strategic planning update process.

As part of the 2013 process, Waukesha County hosted stakeholder focus groups, initiated an employee survey and participated in a peer county analysis.

From the focus groups we learned that, overall, Waukesha County residents are pleased with the quality (88%), level (73%) and value (75%) of services for the price they pay. In addition, it is clear that most important outcomes for county stakeholders are: 1) a “safe” county and 2) an “economically vibrant” county. Results of the focus group efforts clearly stated that residents want high quality services at a low cost.

From the survey results we learned that employees believe there is a focus on fiscal responsibility (69%) and that services are provided in a businesslike manner (75%). Also, Waukesha County employees are willing to give extra effort to help the County succeed (87%).

More information on the County’s Strategic Plan and results is available at www.waukeshacounty.gov.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING UPDATE

Progress on the construction of the new Waukesha County Health and Human Services Building continues. This month, the terra cotta façade on the south side of the building is complete, including the installation of window sills and windows. This is a major step in completing the building’s exterior.

Also this month, roof installation has begun and is now more than 50% complete. The structural steel for the loading dock, bus stop and main entry canopies has been completed and the framing, roofing, lights and finishes are anticipated to be completed in the coming weeks.

The building’s generator, which will be the building’s backup power system, is now in its designated enclosure and testing of the unit has been completed. Also recently completed is the building’s drywall on the ground floor and upper level while drywall on the lower level is expected to be completed very soon. Painting on the ground floor is also near completion and is well underway on the upper level. All three of the building’s elevators have been delivered and installation is expected to be completed this week.



Drywall is completed and painting has begun on the building’s ground floor.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EARTH DAY

The public is invited to a free Community Open House at the Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility, 220 S. Prairie Avenue, on Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m. – Noon.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the facility and learn about how recycling works in Waukesha County, meet the recycling mascot, Recycle Raccoon, enter to win prizes and enjoy music provided by 99.1 WMYX.

This annual event celebrates Earth Day by taking visitors behind the scenes to see how 90 tons of recyclables are sorted and baled each day for shipment to markets. Tours will also provide information about products made from recycled materials and the impact that the recycling industry has on energy, natural resources and the economy.

Guided tours will run every 15 minutes. Pre-registration is not required.

For more information, visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

WEATHER RADIOS

April is Tornado Awareness Month in Wisconsin. This month is the perfect time to consider purchasing a weather radio for the safety of yourself and your family. A weather radio is like having your own emergency siren in your home. A weather radio is the smoke alarm of the weather world.

A weather radio is one of the best ways to protect your family when disaster strikes. Emergency radios are a 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and other emergency information. If there is no emergency, the radio goes into a silent stand-by mode. When there is an emergency it sets off an alarm alerting you to the danger. These radios use S.A.M.E. technology which allows you to program your radio to alarm only for hazardous conditions that affect the County.

Make sure the unit has a back-up battery so you can continue to get warnings even if the power goes out. Also, consider a portable emergency radio, especially if you do a lot of outdoor activities or road trips. You can purchase emergency radios for \$30 at most electronic stores.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”