

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



## In this issue:

- Prescription Drug Collection
- Health and Human Services Center Ground Breaking
- Health & Human Services Public Hearing
- Federated Library Automated Circulation System
- Boat Launches Now Open
- Day Report Center Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Month

Dear Friends,

Tuesday, April 3rd, is a very important election day for all Waukesha County residents. With the Presidential Primary taking place in the state, this week's local elections have gotten somewhat lost in the mix, but it is very important that you, as an American, research local candidates and exercise your right to vote.

This week communities will elect local municipal leaders, vote for representatives to the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors, and select a candidate in the United States Presidential Primary. Due to redistricting following the 2010 election, new supervisory districts have been drawn, thus creating the opportunity for at least 7 brand new County Board Supervisors which is equivalent to nearly 25% of the Board. The County Board plays a significant role in shaping Waukesha County policy and ultimately passes the County's annual budget.

Being a Presidential Election year, it is important for voters to express their opinion on who each party nominee should be. The race for the Republican Presidential nomination is still very close. The state of Wisconsin will play a significant role in deciding which Republican candidate will be on the ballot come November.

The Government Accountability Board has a number of resources available for voters including how to find your polling place and view a sample ballot. To access these resources, visit <https://vpa.wi.gov/>.

Sincerely,



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

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION

Waukesha County will be holding a prescription drug collection on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The collection, which is the fourth 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 28, 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 28th. 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](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection).

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GROUND BREAKING

On April 22, over 100 people joined Waukesha County for the groundbreaking of the new Health and Human Services Center. Waukesha County Director of Health and Human Services, Peter Schuler, acted as the Master of Ceremonies, remarks were made by County Executive Dan Vrakas, Waukesha County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, Deputy Secretary Joan Hansen from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and Allison Bussler, Waukesha County Director of Public Works.

The much anticipated project is the largest capital project in Waukesha County history. The County's 5-year Capital Plan allows for the County to carefully plan and strategically budget for major capital projects.

Last fall when the County Executive introduced the 2012-2016 Capital plan to the County Board, changes were made to take advantage of an estimated \$500,000 in savings due to the current favorable bidding climate. Waukesha County received favorable bids for the Health and Human Services Building and procured materials for the building last fall, allowing for construction to begin on time and under budget.



**Dignitaries break ground on the new Health and Human Services Center.**

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

## FEDERATED LIBRARY LAUNCHES NEW AUTOMATED CIRCULATION SYSTEM

On Tuesday, March 27, the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors approved an Ordinance for a new automated circulation system, Computer Access for Everyone, known as CAFÉ.

The system allows for all Waukesha County residents to search for books and other library materials from any of the 16 member libraries in the County using a centralized database. Based on the bid award and cost saving, Menomonee Falls Library Board voted to join the system last week. The CAFÉ system now includes all 16 libraries in the County.

Waukesha County Federated Library Director, Tom Hennen, estimates the CAFÉ system will produce a significant financial savings in ongoing costs for member libraries when it “goes live” in December of 2012.

## WAUKESHA COUNTY PARKS’ BOAT LAUNCHES OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The Waukesha County Park System offers lake access for boat launching. Access to Nagawicka, Pewaukee, Nemahbin, School Section and Ashippun Lakes is available with an Annual Boat Launch sticker or daily fee payable at the launch. For more information, contact (262) 548-7801.

Lake Access Fees	
Annual Lake Access Sticker	\$75.00
Additional Sticker	\$37.00
Nagawicka & Pewaukee Lake Access	
Self Registration: Carry-in/Weekday	\$5.50
Self Registration: Trailered/Weekday	\$6.00
Self Registration: Carry-in/Weekends & Holidays	\$5.75
Self Registration: Trailered/Weekends & Holidays	\$7.50
Nemahbin Lake Access	
Self Registration: Carry-in Everyday	\$5.50
Self Registration: Trailered Everyday	\$6.00
Ashippun & School Section Lake Access	No Fee



Waukesha County Parks’ boat launches opened April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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## DAY REPORT CENTER CELEBRATES 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

This month the Waukesha County Day Report Center will celebrate its 5th year anniversary. Wisconsin Community Services, Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on preventing criminal recidivism, has run the center, through a contract with Waukesha County since its inception in April 2007.

Since the Day Report Center opened in 2006, nearly 1,000 individuals have participated in the program with an 85% completion rate. Program participants receive drug and alcohol testing, electronic monitoring, job searching services and case manager meetings while in the program.

Last year, nearly 14,000 jail bed days were saved because of the program, and in the 5 years since the center has opened, the County has saved nearly 39,000 jail bed days at the Waukesha County jail.



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Vrakas on Twitter!**

**Username:  
CoExecDanVrakas**

## APRIL IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH

April 16-20 is Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin. There are three things that you must do in the event of severe weather or a tornado: Listen, Act and Live!

**Listen:** When severe weather is possible (thunderstorms or tornado watches) pick a credible source of information and keep in touch with that source until the danger has passed.

**Act:** When you hear a tornado warning seek the best shelter you can find immediately. Do not waste time checking multiple sources of information. You may have only seconds to find a safe place.

**Live:** Your chances of survival multiply when you find shelter. Hopefully the storm will pass without damage, but do not risk your life on a hope.

For more information on what to do when severe weather hits, visit [www.readywisconsin.gov](http://www.readywisconsin.gov).

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