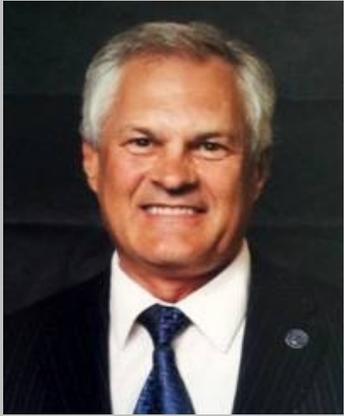


# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

Next month is National Emergency Preparedness month. Let this time be a reminder to prepare yourself, your family and your home for a potential emergency. Waukesha County is dedicated to preparing our County employees, emergency responders and residents to deal with emergency situations. In recent years, parts of Waukesha County have been affected by severe weather, including flooding, tornados, severe heat and drought. These events have highlighted the need to prepare for weather related emergencies.

Waukesha County emergency responders are well-prepared to handle any situation, and I am confident that their training and experience will make them great leaders when faced with a disaster. Waukesha County is also fortunate to have many businesses and non-profit organizations willing to help out in a time of need.

I believe that many County residents – individuals and families – are also prepared to deal with a potential disaster; however, you can never be too prepared. Waukesha County has a number of resources and programs to help residents better prepare for an emergency. The website [www.readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.readywisconsin.wi.gov) provides many resources to help you prepare for a potential emergency. The focus of the website is three simple key steps: Get a Kit, Make and Plan, Be Informed. I encourage you to learn more about these steps on the website.

Another resource provided by Waukesha County is an emergency alert, reverse 911 system. By signing up at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov), you will be notified of severe weather events impacting your community in real time.

Sincerely,

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[www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov)

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE AWARD WINNERS

An independent panel of judges, which includes business executives, community leaders and past winners, selected the following County Executive Award winners recognized for the excellence they demonstrate as a successful organization in the community:

Business of the Year - DUECO, Inc.

Large Non-Profit of the Year - Safe Babies  
Healthy Families

Small Non-Profit of the Year - Literacy  
Council of Greater Waukesha, Inc.

Government Agency of the Year - City of  
New Berlin

The winners will be honored at the eighteenth annual County Executive Awards Luncheon at the Country Springs, Waukesha, on Thursday, October 10. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 p.m.

Gale E. Klappa, President and CEO of Wisconsin Energy Corporation and We Energies, will be the keynote speaker.

Reservations for the luncheon are available at \$45.00 per person, and corporate tables of 10 are available for \$450.00. For further information or to make reservations, contact Shirlene Hazelberg at 548-7902.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PRESERVES CRISIS LINE

Earlier this month, County Executive Dan Vrakas announced that the First Call for Help crisis phone line will be preserved despite the decision by the Mental Health Association (MHA) to dissolve.

The Waukesha County Health and Human Services Department has been working collaboratively with the United Way in Waukesha County and 2-1-1-Wisconsin to assure continuity of services provided by MHA in Waukesha County. For the past several years, both First Call for Help crisis services and 2-1-1 information and referral services have been provided by the MHA. Despite the efforts of the partner agencies to address MHA's funding difficulties, the association has announced its plans to dissolve.

Over the next several months of transition, Waukesha County has agreed to fund the MHA so it may continue to operate First Call for Help at 262-547-3388. MHA's First Call for Help will provide the county's 24/7 helpline for access to crisis intervention services, emotional support, and peer support line services.

In addition to the change with the First Call for Help line, as of today, 2-1-1 services will no longer be provided by the MHA. The 2-1-1 calls in Waukesha County will be answered by other experienced 2-1-1 call centers in Wisconsin without interruption of service. The mission of 2-1-1 Wisconsin is to connect everyone in Wisconsin with quick and easy access to community-based health and human services information and resources.

The staff of the Waukesha County Health and Human Services Department will continue working collaboratively with United Way in Waukesha County and 2-1-1 Wisconsin representatives to ensure a seamless transition and to jointly develop a sustainable plan for helpline services in Waukesha County.

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

## FORUM ON TEENAGE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Waukesha County Drug Free Communities (DFC) is hosting a forum about the effect of drugs and alcohol on teenage brain development presented by Dr. Ken Winters. The program will be presented at Steinhafels' Community Room in Waukesha at 7 p.m.

The forum will provide a holistic view of teenage brain development, the emerging science around brain development, the impact of drugs and alcohol on the brain and the role of parents, teachers and the greater community on supporting healthy teenage brain development. There will also be an opportunity for questions at the end of the presentation.

Dr. Winters is the Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and a member of the National Organization on Effective Treatment for Adolescents.

For more information or to RSVP for the forum, please contact Julie Walker by emailing [jwalker@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:jwalker@waukeshacounty.gov) or calling 262-896-8263. For more information on DFC please visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc).

## FALL PLANT SALE

Retzer Nature Center, located at S14 W28167 Madison Street, in Waukesha, will be holding their annual Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, August 24 from 9 a.m. until noon, hosted by the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use.

Landscaping with native plants is good for the environment, wildlife and your wallet. Find the perfect native plant and grasses for your garden with varieties including Prairie Blazing Star, New England Aster, Wild Lupine, Wild Geranium, Butterfly-weed, and many more, all that range in price from \$4 to \$20. Also, purchase a rain barrel and a compost bin to add to your already environmentally friendly garden; compost bins are \$50 and rain barrels with diverter kits starting at \$70. Varieties of bird seed will also be available for sale.

Retzer Nature Center staff members will be available to answer questions on natural landscaping, identifying plant samples, and provide the basics about home composting and using rain barrels. All products are in limited quantities and are for sale on a first come, first serve basis. Cash or check payment is preferred, but Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. A fee is not required for entrance into Retzer Nature Center and all are welcome to attend.

For more information, call 262-896-8007 or visit our web site at [waukeshacountyparks.com](http://waukeshacountyparks.com).



The plant sale will take place at Retzer Nature Center, pictured above.

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

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## SAVE THE DATE: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER RIBBON CUTTING

October 1, 2013 will mark the grand opening of the new Waukesha County Health and Human Services Center. This exciting and much anticipated event will be celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 2 p.m. on October 1, at the main entrance of the new building located at 514 Riverview Drive in Waukesha.

Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kitty Rhodes, County Executive Dan Vrakas, County Board Chairman Paul Decker, Public Works Director Allison Bussler and Health and Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson will be speaking at the formal ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony, building tours will be provided and refreshments will be served. The event is open to the public and no reservations are required. For questions, please call the County Executive's Office by calling (262) 548-7902.



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

**Username:  
CoExecDanVrakas**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

As families are preparing for back-to-school, the time is right to think about school required vaccines. Waukesha County Public Health Division (WCPHD) offers both the school required and the CDC recommended vaccines. WCPHD has Walk-In Services and Community Clinics. The WCPHD website, [waukeshacounty.gov/immunizations](http://waukeshacounty.gov/immunizations), has the details regarding clinic dates, times, locations, and information regarding eligibility for vaccines. Children with insurance coverage for vaccines are directed to their health care provider.

Required vaccines for the 2013-2014 School Year:

**Grades K through 5:** 4 DTaP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) or DTP/DT, 4 polio, 3 hepatitis B, 2 MMR, 2 Varicella

**Grades 6 through 12:** 4 DTaP (diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis) or DTP/DT, 1 Tdap, 3 hepatitis B, 2 MMR, 2 Varicella

Information about the vaccines and the diseases they prevent can be found at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) and [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

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