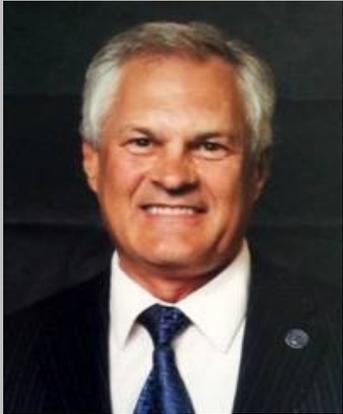


FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

Waukesha County is an outstanding place to live, work, raise a family and enjoy an active retirement, and I am so proud of our great County.

We have much to celebrate in Waukesha County, and the holidays are an important time to celebrate and remember the courageous men and women serving our country in the military, both domestically and abroad, who are unable to share the holidays with their families. As you gather around the table with your families at your own holiday celebration, be sure to think of and thank the many Americans working to protect our freedom.

Also, the holidays are an important time to remember that there are many in our County who are less fortunate. The local food pantries are always looking for donations of food, and there are several other ways to give this season. The Christmas Clearing Council in Waukesha County has a number of Waukesha County children in need of gifts and the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign is also looking for holiday donations. In addition, there are numerous, great non-profit organization in our County that depend on end of year giving.

I am very honored to represent you as Waukesha County's County Executive, and I am confident that 2013 will be another outstanding year for Waukesha County! I wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and may your New Year be full of happiness and good health.

May your celebrations be joyous, cheerful and safe!

Sincerely,

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www.waukeshacounty.gov

2013 ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE STICKERS

Waukesha County Parks' 2013 Annual Park Entrance Stickers are available now. The entrance stickers are good from date of purchase through December 31, 2013. You can purchase your sticker at any of the eight park offices or entrance huts; Retzer Nature Center; Eble Park Ice Arena in Brookfield; Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena in Delafield or the Parks and Land Use Office, Room AC230, in the administration building of the Courthouse. If you have any questions please call (262) 548-7790.

The 2013 annual sticker prices are:

- Waukesha County Resident - \$28.00 per car and second vehicle is \$14.00 per car (Proof of residency required, limit 2 second vehicles per household and must be purchased at time of Resident Sticker)
- Waukesha County Resident-Senior Citizen - \$14.00 per car and second vehicle is \$7.00 per car (Proof of age, 60 years and older, and residency required, limit 2 second vehicles per household and must be purchased at time of Resident Senior Citizen Sticker)
- Non-Waukesha County Resident - \$38.00 per car. (There are no Second Vehicle stickers available for Non-Waukesha County Residents)

SHINGLES VACCINE NOW AVAILABLE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends people age 60 and older be vaccinated against shingles, or herpes zoster, a condition often marked by debilitating chronic pain.

Anyone who has had chicken pox can get shingles. The virus later becomes dormant within the nerves. If it reactivates later in life, the result can be shingles (herpes zoster) which is characterized by clusters of blisters that develop on one side of the body in a band-like pattern and can cause severe pain that may last for weeks, months or years.

The risk of contracting shingles increases with age, starting at around age 50, and is highest in the elderly. Half of people living to age 85 have had or will get shingles. The risk of experiencing chronic pain also increases with age. A single dose of the zoster vaccine, Zostavax, is recommended for adults 60 years of age and older even if they have had a prior episode of shingles.

The shingles vaccine is now available at Waukesha County Public Health Division immunization clinics each month in communities throughout Waukesha County. For immunization clinic dates, times (including evenings), and locations, please visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/immunizations or call the Waukesha County Public Health Division at (262)896-8430. Immunizations are also available at the Waukesha County Public Health Center located at 615 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk-in service is available at all clinic locations. The cost of the shingles vaccine is \$220. Cash, check or Medicaid are accepted. Unfortunately, Medicare is no longer accepted. For more information about the importance of shingles vaccination, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/shingles/default.htm>.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

LEAN HIGHLIGHT

Last fall, in an effort to increase efficiency and save taxpayer dollars, Waukesha County launched a “LEAN” initiative in various departments.

LEAN principles, once applied only to manufacturing, are now applied to service industries such as healthcare and government. LEAN tools focus on reducing or eliminating eight areas of waste including: errors, unnecessary transportation, motions or work, waiting, excessive process approvals, backlog, and underutilized employees abilities.

The Sheriff’s Department mapped out document serving process steps and identified key areas to improve the tracking and timeliness of serving restraining orders, subpoenas and other documents. Better use of technology through document scanning improved accessibility and reduced paper and printing costs.

The Division of Administration Collections Division team reduced month-end reporting from 57 days down to 29 days with improved customer satisfaction. The team identified additional improvements which will increase efficiency, team morale and customer satisfaction.

The Department of Health and Human Services Economic Support Division reduced customer call wait time from 17 to 7 minutes, significantly reducing the call hang-up rate from 47% to 13%.

BUDGET SIGNING

Every year since his election, County Executive Dan Vrakas has held a formal budget signing in which the County Department Heads, employees, County Board Supervisors and the public are invited to attend.

This year, the signing was held at New Berlin City Hall in the Council Chambers. New Berlin was selected as the site of the signing because they have been an outstanding partner with the County, especially through programs implemented in the last year. Such programs include New Berlin joining Waukesha County’s joint dispatch center (the Waukesha County Communications Center) which will save New Berlin taxpayers \$900,000 per year for the next 10 years.

Last year, the City of New Berlin joined the Countywide CAFÉ system with the Federated Library System, which allows all 16 Federated Library members to share information and books. Earlier this year, New Berlin has launched the “New Berlin Connects” program in partnership with the Aging and Disability Resource Center which utilizes technology to help keep seniors in their homes and living independently.



County Executive Dan Vrakas signs the 2013 Waukesha County Budget.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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EXTREME WEATHER

Winter has officially arrived in Waukesha County. During the winter months in Wisconsin, it is not uncommon to experience extreme weather. Here are some Wisconsin extreme weather facts:

- The coldest temperature in the winter of 2011-12 was -31 at Upson (Iron County) on Jan 20, 2012.
- Wisconsin's all-time, lowest temperature is -55°F on February 2 & 4, 1996, near Couderay (Sawyer County).
- Average annual snowfall ranges from 32 to 40 inches near the Illinois border to 135 to 168 inches in the Iron County snow-belt from Gurney to Hurley.
- Greatest single storm total - Superior, 31.0 inches over Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1991.
- Greatest monthly total - Hurley, 103.5 inches in Jan. 1997.
- Greatest seasonal total - Hurley, 301.8 inches in winter of 1996-97.
- Deepest snow on ground (excluding drifts) - Hurley, 60.0 inches on Jan. 30, 1996.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

I-94 EAST-WEST FREEWAY CORRIDOR STUDY

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) is planning to reconstruct the Zoo-Interchange between 2013 and 2018. This construction will have an impact on Waukesha County residents, specifically those commuting and travelling between Waukesha County and Milwaukee County. A number of different design concepts are being considered including braided ramps, double decking lanes and adding frontage roads.

Developing alternatives is a process that involves meetings with the general public, businesses and neighborhood groups, impacted stake holders and elected officials who represent the region. As part of the process to determine the best design concept for the area, the DOT will be holding a series of public information meetings in the spring and fall of 2013. Specific dates, times and locations will be available in the coming months. At the meetings, the study team will share with the public the purpose and need for the study and potential alternatives to improve the corridor.

For more information on the project, and for more opportunities to provide feedback to the DOT, please visit www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/se.htm.

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