

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

As you read in last month's newsletter, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and Veterans Services Office have merged in an effort to better serve County residents. This merger is just one of the many efforts Waukesha County has implemented in order to work more cooperatively and efficiently for the taxpayers.

Following a study of strategic alliances between the Department of Public Works and Parks and Land Use, the departments are working closer together to share expertise and utilize workforces in a more cooperative manner. This study was so successful that this year we are studying a strategic alliance between the Department of Public Works and the Waukesha County Airport to identify ways to increase support for Airport users.

Cooperation with Waukesha County municipalities has also proven to be highly successful. The County Communications and Dispatch Center ("Comm Center") is a great example of regional cooperation. By centralizing all dispatch services at the Comm Center, municipalities are able to utilize a state-of-the-art dispatching facility as well as save taxpayers money.

The recent contract between the Sheriff's Department and the City of Pewaukee to provide law enforcement to the City of Pewaukee is another great example of cooperation. This agreement, the first time a Sheriff's Department has contracted with a city in the state of Wisconsin, is has been projected to save city taxpayers approximately \$800,000.

As County Executive, I promise to seek out and encourage ways for Waukesha County to be more cooperative and deliver efficient services to taxpayers.

Sincerely,

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**Nurses Maria Schneider and Laura Simon
at a recent Vaccination Clinic.**

H1N1 Vaccination Clinic Update

Waukesha County Division of Public Health is beginning to administer the H1N1 vaccine at various municipal locations countywide. Both the intranasal and injectable vaccine will be administered at the following locations and times:

February 22, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Park View Middle School, 930 N. Rochester St., Mukwonago.

March 1, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson School, N88 W16750 Garfield Dr, Menomonee Falls

March 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at White Rock Elementary School, 1150 Whiterock Ave , Waukesha

Information on these clinics can be found on the County website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/pandemicflu or call 2-1-1 for more information on the H1N1 virus.

Update from the County Parks System

Enjoy Retzer Nature Center on Snowshoes

Join a Retzer naturalist as you trek the trails in the silent world of winter on snowshoes. Two hour Saturday sessions cover the various styles of snowshoes and how to use them. The program will emphasize wildlife tracks, signs, and recreational snowshoeing as you connect to your winter surroundings. Snowshoes are provided.

Retzer Nature Center is located at S14 W28167 Madison Street in Waukesha. Winter Wildlife on Snowshoes for Families & Scouts will be held on Saturdays, February 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. and February 20 and 27 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Registration and a fee of \$7 per person are due five days prior to the program date. Please call (262) 548-7801 to register.

County Park System's 2010 Annual Stickers on Sale Now

Waukesha County Parks' 2010 Annual Park Entrance Stickers are on sale. These entrance stickers are good from the date of purchase through December 31, 2010. You can purchase your sticker from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at any of the eight park entrances, Retzer Nature Center, or the Parks and Land Use Office located at 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room AC230, in Waukesha. If you have any questions please call (262) 548-7801.

The 2010 annual sticker prices are: Waukesha County Resident - \$25.00 per car and second vehicle is \$12.50 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 - \$12.50 per car and second vehicle is \$6.25 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 - \$36.00 per car. There are no Second Vehicle stickers available for Non-Waukesha County residents.

FLIGHT FOR LIFE

The Department of Emergency Preparedness recently met with staff from Flight for Life, located at Crites Field, to discuss the options available to them to increase their radio communications capabilities and those to public safety agencies in this area. Recent testing of current radio communication capabilities conducted by Flight for Life concluded that Waukesha County's 800 trunked radio system has superior coverage compared to the technology in their own helicopters. In addition to the increase in coverage area, the redundancy and reliability that Radio Services has built into the system will help ensure that radio communications will continue to function 99.999 percent of the time.

Once the transition is made, public safety agencies in this county will have better radio communications with Flight for Life, both from their dispatch centers to the personnel on the street. This increase of interoperability capabilities for public safety has been a focus for the last several years and is an indication of the commitment the county has made toward public safety.

Courts Launch Self-Help Seminars

The Waukesha County Courts Self-Help Center, under the direction of Clerk of Circuit Courts, Kathleen Madden, is now offering seminars regarding divorce procedure and in some post-judgment subjects. The seminars are each held twice a month on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 4:30-6:30 pm in room CG-9 of the Waukesha County Courthouse.

Pre-registration for the seminars is required, and registration can be accomplished by calling 262-548-7524. A \$25, annual resource fee is required. The \$25 fee pays for:

- All forms and form packets
- Subject area seminars to review forms and court procedures
- Appointments with a Customer Service Representative for questions and forms review
- Appointments with a Volunteer Attorney, if legal questions arise
- Calls during phone-in hours

Individuals unable to make the payment should consult with a Court Self-Help Customer Service Representative.

The seminars, listed by subject, are posted below.

| Subject Area Seminars | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Divorce I: Getting Started | 2 & 24 | 2 & 24 | 6 & 28 |
| Divorce II: Preparing the Final Paperwork | 10 & 23 | 10 & 23 | 14 & 27 |
| Post-Judgment Modification (By Motion or Stipulation) | 3 & 16 | 3 & 16 | 7 & 20 |
| Post-Judgment Contempt (Including Enforcement of Placement) | 9 & 17 | 9 & 17 | 13 & 21 |
| All Seminars are held in room CG-9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. | | | |

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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ZOO INTERCHANGE UPDATE

The I-94 Zoo Interchange is a vital part of Waukesha County's transportation and commerce. The current Interchange project, the emergency bridge replacement, is well underway and may have an effect on travel on I-94.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the February repairs include driving pile for the new bridges and moving dirt to create embankment. Also, large cranes are being moved into the area to construct bridge piers.

It is important that those driving in this area do so carefully and obey construction zone signs, rules and speed regulations. Drivers should not follow construction vehicles into work zones and should be aware of workers in the area. During evening and night hours there are between 40 and 50 people working in the shadows of the bridges.

For more information on the Zoo Interchange Emergency Bridge Replacement Program visit www.sefreeways.org.



Total Reconstruction of the I-94 Zoo Interchange, shown above, will begin in 2016.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The severe flooding that took place in Waukesha County in the spring of 2008, confirmed the importance of flood insurance in addition to a standard homeowner's or renter's insurance policy. Unfortunately, fewer than 1% of Wisconsin Households have flood insurance, so many homes affected by the 2008 floods were not covered under their insurance policy.

Since it takes 30 days for flood insurance to take effect, now is the time to review and update your insurance policy. The average flood insurance policy is \$500 and can be as low as \$100. Talk to your insurance agent for more information. Visit www.floodsmart.gov for information on flooding, flooding risks and flood insurance options.



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