

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

The City of Waukesha needs Lake Michigan water, and in order to achieve this, Southeastern Wisconsin must have a regional water policy. Waukesha did not get to this point alone. Through the first half of the century, regional communities and businesses grew while using the deep groundwater aquifer for water supply. It wasn't until the 1960's that many communities along Lake Michigan, including the City of Milwaukee, began to shift their water supply sources from groundwater to drawing from Lake Michigan. By this time, the deep groundwater aquifer had been over-tapped by much of the region, a drawdown of several hundred feet was created.

Great Lakes Compact provides the framework for water supply decisions to communities along the Great Lakes and communities in straddling counties that have some streams and groundwater that flow into the Great Lakes. Since the Compact's approval, water, environmental and land use experts from throughout the region have developed, and unanimously endorsed, a sustainable Regional Water Supply Plan that balances municipal water supply from both groundwater and Lake Michigan.

In a recent New York Times article, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the environmental organization the Alliance for the Great Lakes stated that "Wisconsin really pushed itself to pass a policy that would ensure Wisconsin's waters for many generations to come".

A report by the National Wildlife Foundation (NWF) singles out Wisconsin for developing its goals and objectives "through a thoughtful, open planning process".

Waukesha has been a leader in water conservation efforts and has done an exemplary job of researching and evaluating their water supply alternatives while planning for a sustainable future for their citizens. Because of this, I believe Waukesha's application will become the model for future diversion requests, and we will hear more well-deserved praise for our great City, the region and the State.

Sincerely,

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2012 BUDGET KEY DATES

On June 9th, Waukesha County officially kicked-off the 2012 Budget planning and creation process. Over the course of the summer, the County's budget team and the County Executive will meet with department heads and County personnel in an effort to create the Executive Budget.

Also participating in these meetings are Waukesha County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, Waukesha County Finance Committee Chair Supervisor Pat Haukohl and County Board Committee Chairs. This unique partnership maintains open and clear communication between the executive and legislative branches at the County as well as strengthens this relationship during the budget process.

Below is an outline of the key dates in the 2012 Budget process:

July – Budget Town Hall Meetings

August 30 – County Executive completes budget meetings with departments

August 31 – Capital Projects plan issued to the County Board office for review

September 27 – County Executive presents budget to the County Board

October 19 – County Board Finance Committee Budget Public Hearing

Mid-November – County Board adopts 2012 County Budget

WINGS OVER WAUKESHA

Wings Over Waukesha Air Show returns to Waukesha County Airport August 27 and 28, 2011, featuring a variety of nationally-renowned aerobatics acts, wing walkers, sky divers and a host of contemporary and vintage aircraft from both civilian and military aviation. In addition to the daily air show at 1:00 p.m., this family-friendly event offers the opportunity to get a ride in an airplane or helicopter, including a World War II B-25 bomber! Kids and adults will also have the opportunity to learn about flying, aircrafts and the important role of military aviation, while meeting local pilots and getting a close-up view of their aircraft, many of which have been painstakingly restored to their original mid-1900's condition. Food, beverages and aviation-related merchandise are available for purchase throughout the show grounds.

Bring the whole family to Wings Over Waukesha Air Show! Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m., \$2 per car to park, admission is only \$5 per person, and kids under 12 are free!

For more information, visit www.wingsoverwaukesha.com.



This year marks the third annual Wings Over Waukesha event at the Waukesha County Airport.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH EXTREME HEAT

This month, we have experienced temperatures into the 90s. Severe heat can be dangerous so it is important to keep your family and yourself cool in hot weather. Here are some tips to help you stay safe:

- Never leave children, disabled persons, or pets in a parked car – even briefly. Temperatures in a car can become life threatening within minutes.
- Keep your living space cool. Cover windows to keep the sun from shining in. If you don't have an air conditioner, open windows to let air circulate.
- Slow down and limit physical activity. Plan outings or exertion for the early morning or after dark when temperatures are cooler.
- Drink plenty of water and eat lightly. Don't wait for thirst, but instead drink plenty of water throughout the day.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing, and don't forget sunscreen!
- Taking a cool shower or bath will cool you down. A shower or bath will actually work faster than an air conditioner. Applying cold wet rags to the neck, head and limbs also cools down the body quickly.

WAUKESHA COUNTY ICE ARENAS

Beaches aren't the only spot in Waukesha County to cool off. When the weather is scorching, why not go ice-skating? Cool off and beat the heat while ice-skating at one of the Waukesha County Park System's Ice Arenas. Eble Park Ice Arena, 19400 West Bluemound Road, Brookfield and Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena, 2699 Golf Road, Delafield, both have public skating times daily:

Eble Park Ice Arena

Monday through Friday – 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday through Sunday – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena

Monday through Friday – 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturday through Sunday – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon on the ice. Remember the arenas are cold, so please dress accordingly, and don't forget your socks. Adult admission is \$6.00 and Junior/Senior (under 18 years old and 60 years or older) admission is \$4.50. Ice skates are available to rent for \$2.50.

For more information call Eble Park Ice Arena at (262) 784-7512 or Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena at (262) 646-7071 or log on to www.waukeshacountyparks.com.



Families enjoying an afternoon at Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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RIBBON CUTTING FOR HIGHWAY X

On Tuesday, August 9th, Waukesha County will be cutting the ribbon for the official grand opening of the newly reconstructed and repaved County Trunk Highway (CTH) X in the City of Waukesha.

The construction, which began in April of 2010 and was completed earlier this summer, included replacing the formerly two-lane road with a four-lane roadway and the widening of the bridge structure over the railroad and Glacial Drumlin Trail. The nearly 2 miles of roadway was reconstructed due to increasing traffic volumes (over 20,000 vehicles per day) and to improve intersection safety.

Other 2011 road construction projects for Waukesha County include the CTH Y – Woods Road intersection, the CTH V – Good Hope Road intersection and CTH VV between CTH YY and Jackson Drive. Also this summer the Public Works Department is replacing culverts on CTH KE north of CTH JK.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

COMPOSTING

The County Department of Parks & Land Use, Recycling & Solid Waste Division sponsored a one-day compost bin truckload sale on Saturday, June 25 at the Expo Center Parking Lot. During the sale, 874 compost bins were sold. The morning hours saw the biggest crowds and people patiently waited in line to get the great bargain.

According to the EPA, by composting food and yard waste, the average household can divert as much as 600 pounds, or 1/3 ton of waste per year from the landfill. The more than 800 households who purchased compost bins at the sale could potentially divert about 262 tons of waste from landfills per year. At an average landfill disposal fee of \$45 per ton, cost savings would amount to over \$11,000 a year, excluding transportation costs.

Any residents interested in learning more about home composting can attend one of three FREE workshops being offered at Retzer Nature Center: Wednesday, August 10 (7 – 8 p.m.); Saturday, September 10 (10-11 a.m.) and Wednesday, September 21 (7 – 8 p.m.). Please call 262-896-8302 to register at least 3 days prior to the workshop date.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”