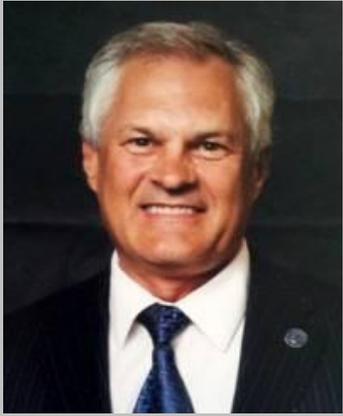


# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

So far this month, I have hosted two of three Town Hall Budget meetings about Waukesha County's financial health and our financial forecast for the coming years. The meetings provide an opportunity for constituents to give feedback to my team and me about issues affecting them.

At the meetings, we share information about the County's financial health. Did you know Waukesha County has the lowest County property tax rate of any County in the State of Wisconsin without a county sales tax? Our low taxes benefit County homeowners and businesses.

For example, a business located in Waukesha County valued at \$2.5 million would pay \$5,425 in County property taxes. That same business, if located in Milwaukee County, would pay more than double that amount, \$12,625 to be exact, in Milwaukee County property taxes.

Another statistic that I am proud of is that Waukesha County, when compared to similar counties in the state, has the lowest number of employees per capita, at 3.5 employees per 1,000 residents, demonstrating our efficiency.

The last statistic I would like to share is our unemployment rate. At a 2012 rate of 6%, Waukesha County's unemployment rate is lower than the state rate (6.9%) and national rate (8.1%).

If you're interested in this information, all of this and more will be presented at this month's Town Hall Meetings. For more information call my office at (262) 548-7902.

Sincerely,



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

## STAYING SAFE IN EXTREME HEAT

July brings warm weather to Wisconsin. Often, the heat can become severe. If the right precautions are not taken, the heat can become dangerous. Here are some tips on staying safe in hot weather:

- Never leave children, disabled persons, or pets in a parked car. Vehicle temperatures can become life threatening.
- Keep your living space cool. All the victims of heat related deaths in the past two years did not have air conditioning and did not seek shelter from the heat at a local cooling center.
- Slow down and limit physical activity. Plan your outings for early morning or after dark, when temperatures are cooler.
- Drink plenty of water and eat lightly. Don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Adding a hat or umbrella will keep your head cool.
- Don't stop taking medication unless your doctor says you should.
- Take a cool shower or bath. It will actually work faster to cool you down than air conditioning. Putting a cold wet rag on your neck, head and limbs also cools down the body quickly.

## VRAKAS ANNOUNCES NEW DEPARTMENT HEADS

Following the retirements of two Waukesha County Department Heads, County Executive Dan Vrakas is pleased to announce the appointment of Antwayne Robertson as Director of Health and Human Services and Gary Bell as Director of Emergency Preparedness.

Robertson will replace the current Director, Peter Schuler, who retired effective June 18, 2013 after 29 years with Waukesha County.

"I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Antwayne Robertson as our new Director of Health and Human Services. Antwayne's many years of experience both within government and in the private sector have made him a perfect fit to lead the County's largest department. He is highly respected by his peers and by the employees within the Department and will do a fantastic job serving Waukesha County citizens in his new role," Vrakas said.

HHS is a County agency providing a wide range of confidential services designed to enhance the physical and emotional functioning of individuals and families in Waukesha County.

Bell replaces Richard Tuma, Director of Emergency Preparedness, who retired effective July 18th.

"Gary brings a great deal of experience and excellent leadership skills to his new post. The Department of Emergency Preparedness is a very important department within Waukesha County government and in Gary, we have found a Director who can hit the ground running and meet the demanding needs of a 24-hour a day operation," Vrakas said.

The Director of Emergency Preparedness manages several divisions and oversees the operations of the Waukesha County Communication Center which houses the 9-1-1 emergency dispatch center. Mr. Bell has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and has worked for 16 years at the Public Safety Communications System of Dane County, serving most recently as its Deputy Director.

*"Waukesha County: Leading the Way ..."*

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are being sought for the eighteenth annual Waukesha County Executive Awards program. This award program recognizes organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors that are contributing to the continued success of the county and its citizens. On October 10, the winners will be honored at a luncheon at the County Springs Hotel in Waukesha. The Waukesha County Business of the Year and Government of the Year will receive a unique award. The Large Non-profit of the Year and the Small Non-profit of the Year, in addition to the award, will receive a grant.

A panel of judges will assess how each nominee meets the needs of four stakeholders: customers, investors, employees and the community at large.

You are encouraged to submit a nomination. The deadline for nominations is Friday, July 26. For further information and a nomination form, contact Shawn Lundie at 548-7902. The nomination form is also available at Waukesha County's Website [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov).

## COUNTY HOSTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) will bring nearly 1,000 athletes, 300 coaches, 150 volunteers, dozens of medical professionals and hundreds of spectators to Waukesha for the State Outdoor Sports Tournament August 3-4, 2013. Bocce, tee ball and tennis competitions will take place at Carroll University, golf will take place at the Moor Downs Golf Course and softball competitions will take place at Saratoga Softball Complex.

"Waukesha County is very proud to be one of the hosts of this event. The Waukesha County Park System mission is to provide our citizens with many different recreation opportunities and activities," said County Executive Dan Vrakas.

The tournament is free at all locations, and the public is invited to cheer on the athletes. Moor Downs Golf Course, 426 Prospect Avenue in Waukesha, will shot gun start at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 3 and 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 4. Join Waukesha County Board Chairman, Paul Decker and Sheriff Dan Trawicki for the awards ceremony on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with scoring events, presenting awards, serving food and escorting athletes. For volunteer information, visit [www.SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org](http://www.SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org).



**Waukesha County will be hosting Special Olympics golf events at Moor Downs Golf Course in Waukesha.**

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

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETINGS

County Executive Dan Vrakas will hold three Town Hall Meetings to provide residents with an opportunity to learn about the budget process and to provide input on the important decisions impacting initiatives in 2014. One session still remains:

Monday, July 29, 2013 - 5:00 p.m.  
Waukesha County Courthouse - 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room 350, Waukesha

Specialized Transportation will be available for the Town Hall Meeting with a 72-hour notice and can be arranged by calling 548-7828. To learn more about County Executive Dan Vrakas or Waukesha County, please visit the County's website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov).



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

**Username:  
CoExecDanVrakas**

## MATTRESS RECYCLING COLLECTION

A mattress and box spring recycling collection event will be held on Saturday, September 14th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Oconomowoc Public Works garage, 630 S. Worthington Ave. Residents and businesses may bring their mattresses or box springs to be recycled for a fee of \$15 per item. The collection is a coordinated effort between Midwest Mattress Recovery, the City of Oconomowoc and the Waukesha County recycling program.

Midwest Mattress Recovery, located in Watertown, opened its doors on March 4th of this year, and has already recovered over 248,000 pounds of material from over 4,000 mattresses and box springs. The company accepts mattresses and box springs from commercial businesses, such as hotels and resorts, or from individuals who can drop off pieces at their warehouse.

For more information about the collection event and Midwest Mattress Recovery, visit [midwestmattressrecovery.com](http://midwestmattressrecovery.com) or call 920-261-1999. Waukesha County Recycling can be contacted at 262-896-8300.

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