

# FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

Seeking partnerships between departments, other governments and the private sector to implement efficiencies and ultimately save tax dollars has been key to Waukesha County's strong fiscal health. Each year when we begin the budget process, as we will mid-June, we examine ways to save taxpayer dollars and ways to spend those dollars in the most efficient way possible. Often, we examine if the private sector can provide County services in a better and more fiscally efficient manner.

Seeking partnerships has long been part of our money saving philosophy and has helped save Waukesha County taxpayers millions of dollars. In fact, just since 2009, partnerships and collaborations have helped Waukesha County's municipal taxpayers save over \$2 million.

One example of significant savings is the Department of Public Works and Department of Administration contract for custodial services at County facilities. By seeking out bids from the private sector, as opposed to using County employees to provide this service, the County is saving over \$80,000 per year.

Additional services that have been privatized consist of over 50 services including our Information Technology Helpdesk for employees, translations services in our Courts, the Medical Examiner's laboratory and x-ray services, Department of Parks and Land Use recycling facility operations, Department of Public Works transit services and Sheriff's Department inmate food and medical services provided at the jail.

As long as I am County Executive, I will continue to seek out partnerships, collaborations and privatization in the best interest of the taxpayer.

Sincerely,



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## WAUKESHA WEST PSA CAMPAIGN

Waukesha County Drug Free Communities is partnering with Waukesha West High School to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and supporting marketing focused on preventing abuse of marijuana, alcohol and prescription drugs. The campaign, titled "What's Your High," focuses on positive messaging and dispelling myths on youth substance use.

The 30 second video PSAs will air at Marcus Majestic Cinema this summer. In addition to the video PSAs, students are creating posters, a webpage, [www.whatsyourhigh.com](http://www.whatsyourhigh.com) and a facebook page to support the video campaign.

Youth are encouraged to "like" the facebook page and upload photos or videos of their natural high, be it sports, music, performing or visual arts. The goal of the facebook campaign is to showcase the various ways Waukesha County youth "get high" without the use of drugs and alcohol.

This is the second year of the PSA program which piloted with the high school last year. Videos from last year's campaign are available at [www.whatsyourhigh.com](http://www.whatsyourhigh.com). The PSA posters, in addition to availability at the high school, will be available for viewing at the Marcus Majestic Cinema this summer. Last year's poster PSA campaign is available for viewing at Drug Free Communities website, [www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc).

## MENOMONEE FALLS C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM LAUNCH

Waukesha County Drug Free Communities has expanded its Community Alcohol Resources for Establishments and Servers (C.A.R.E.S.) Program, currently available in the City of Waukesha, to the Village of Menomonee Falls. The Menomonee Falls C.A.R.E.S. program is possible in cooperation with the Village of Menomonee Falls Police Department, the Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce and Froedtert Health Community Memorial Hospital.

The program is free to participants and designed to recognize and support local establishments who are actively working to prevent underage drinking and encourage healthy drinking habits among adults. Alcohol licensed establishments in the Village of Menomonee Falls can join the program by filling out an application form agreeing to check identification when selling alcohol, refusing to sell alcohol to anyone under 21 or to an intoxicated customer, and participate in Responsible Alcohol Server Training. Businesses joining the C.A.R.E.S. program will receive educational material to promote serving and selling policies and practices, free Responsible Alcohol Server Training and community-wide promotion by Waukesha County DFC.

The Waukesha C.A.R.E.S. program, which launched in May of 2012, has trained over 50 bartenders, servers and retailers on responsible beverage service practices and currently has 10 members. The members of the Waukesha C.A.R.E.S. Program include: Taylor's People's Park, Sprizzo Gallery Caffè, Panos Fruit Market, Nice Ash Cigar Bar, Mia's Italian Restaurant, Generations at 5 Points and Key Westconsin.

For more information on the program, please visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/dfc). Businesses interested in joining the Waukesha C.A.R.E.S. program should contact Waukesha County DFC by calling (262) 896-8263 or emailing [DrugFreeCommunities@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:DrugFreeCommunities@waukeshacounty.gov).

*"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).

## MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL OPENING

Waukesha County Park System's first Mountain Bike Trail will open at Minooka Park on Saturday, June 1 (National Trails Day) at 9 a.m. following a ribbon cutting event open to the public. Once all three phases of the trail are complete, the network will be about five miles in length.

"The mountain bike trail will meet a community and regional need, and promote bicycling and outdoor activities in the park," said County Executive Dan Vrakas.

Waukesha County has partnered with the Waukesha Bicycle Alliance (WBA) in the design, construction and maintenance of the mountain bike trails at Minooka Park. Currently, Waukesha County has less than five miles of off-road trails designated for bicycles.

"The alliance promotes getting more people riding on bikes in more places, and that includes off-road biking on trails," said Ron Stawicki, President of WBA. "Minooka Park was the perfect fit, and we are happy to be a part of this recreational opportunity."

The grand opening event is free and open to the public. The \$4.00 entrance fee will be applied after 12:00 p.m. There will not be an additional cost to use the Mountain Bike Trails above the \$4.00 per car daily entrance fee into Minooka Park. Annual parks stickers are also available.



The Mountain Bike Trail will be a new feature of Minooka Park in Waukesha.

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

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## TIPS FOR SEVERE WEATHER

The recent, devastating tornados in Oklahoma are a reminder of how dangerous severe weather can be and how important it is to prepare ourselves and our families for a potential emergency. Below are some tips from [www.readywisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.readywisconsin.wi.gov) that can help you prepare for severe weather:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and outdoors. Know the safest shelter areas in multiple locations.
- Have frequent drills.
- Keep a disaster supply kit in your home including water, food that won't spoil and needs no heat to serve, first-aid kit, NOAA weather radio (also known as an emergency weather radio), a flashlight and special items for children, pets and elderly family members.
- Take all weather warnings seriously.



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Executive Dan  
Vrakas on Twitter!**

**Username:  
CoExecDanVrakas**

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SPECIAL COLLECTION

Two Waukesha County communities will hold special one-day collections of household hazardous waste in June. The City of Brookfield will hold its special collection on June 1 at the Brookfield Public Works Department, 19700 Riverview Drive. The City of Delafield's special collection will be on June 15 at the Delafield Public Works Department, 111 Main Street. Both collections are from 8 a.m. until noon and are open to any resident in Waukesha County.

Old, unusable chemicals, pesticides, wood preservatives, solvents, oil-based paints, and mercury-containing products will be accepted. Latex paint and non-hazardous cleaning materials will not be accepted.

Waukesha County's four year-round collection sites are located in Muskego, Waukesha, Menomonee Falls, and Franklin. For more information, including a detailed list of acceptable household hazardous waste materials, visit [waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste](http://waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste) or call 262-896-8300.

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