

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

I am so proud to live in and, along with a great team, lead a County that is so focused on supporting and giving back to their neighbors and community. I am constantly amazed by the generosity of Waukesha County residents giving their money, time and talents to help make Waukesha County vibrant.

On March 14th, four Waukesha County non-profits will participate in Match Day – a program of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. On this day, individuals can donate to participating agencies or to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Basic Needs Fund. A total of \$750,000 will be available to match contributions and grow the impact of a donor's gift. All gifts will be matched proportionately, based on the total amount raised that day by each organization. This is the second year that these outstanding non-profit organizations, Hebron House, The Hope Center, The Women's Center and the Food Pantry of Waukesha County, have participated in this day of giving. Last year, these non-profits saw great success in this program through receiving support for community donors, and I am certain that through the generosity of County residents, they will once again have a successful year.

In our Waukesha County Parks, we could not be as successful as we are if it were not for the time generously donated by community volunteers to help beautify our Parks. Last year, a total of 3,799 individuals donated 10,472 hours of volunteer time in our parks. This time has a value of \$112,679!

Sincerely,



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262.548.7902 office • 262.896.8510 fax
www.waukeshacounty.gov

CHESTER MARCOL: ALIVE AND KICKING EDUCATION FORUM

Waukesha County Drug Free Communities is hosting an educational forum featuring former Green Bay Packer Chester Marcol's presentation of *Alive and Kicking: My Journey Through Football, Addiction and Life*, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The event, which will begin with a resource fair at 6:30 p.m., will take place at Carroll University's Shattuck Auditorium, 218 N. East Avenue in Waukesha.

Chester Marcol is best known for his historic play, "Marcol's Miracle" on September 7, 1980 when he caught his own blocked field goal in overtime and ran it in for a touchdown, winning the season opener against the Chicago Bears. Sadly, Chester's fame was soon over, as he was cut from the Green Bay Packers due to his alcoholism and dependence on prescription drugs. Chester recently wrote a book with Milwaukee Journal Sentinel sports reporter, Gary D'Amato, "Alive and Kicking; My Journey Through Football, Addiction, and Life." Chester will share his story of his time with the NFL, his struggle with addiction and his recovery. You won't want to miss this powerful story.

Advance Registration Appreciated (though not required) at <http://dfcwaukeshacounty-chestermarcol.eventbrite.com>

REDUCE YOUR WASTE STREAM CHALLENGE

Over 200 families are participating in the Reduce Your Waste Stream Challenge – an innovative 'go green' project developed and facilitated by the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use – Recycling Program.

The Challenge is a friendly competition between households to see who can recycle the most and throw away the least trash over the course of one month. Families weigh their recyclables and trash every week before they set it out at the curb and track the results.

Through partnerships with the Waukesha STEM Academy and Brookfield Elementary, Waukesha County is facilitating the project, including offering recycling education on how the families can make the biggest impact.

Starting with a baseline week, families will weigh the "typical" amount of recyclables and trash generated in their household. Over four weeks, families are working on reducing their trash and recycling more to improve from their starting weights.

In previous Challenges, families have increased their recycling as much as 66% and reduced their trash as much as 44%, resulting in the diversion of thousands of pounds of resources from the landfill. Among the most effective methods include composting food scraps, purchasing only items with recyclable packaging and considering alternatives for items normally thrown in the trash.

Families who complete the Challenge will be put in a drawing to win local family-fun prizes, including zoo and movie tickets. The schools are also eligible to receive Waukesha County Green Schools grant money as an incentive to recruit as many of their families as possible to complete the Challenge.

The Challenge will run through the week of March 15th and can be followed on the official Challenge website, www.ReduceYourWasteStream.org.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEARING

The Waukesha County Health and Human Services Board invites all Waukesha County residents to comment on the quality of health and human services programs, unmet needs and improvements that could be made in the current system of health and human services in Waukesha County. Health and Human Services board members and staff will consider your concerns and recommendations, as the 2014 Department of Health and Human Services budget is prepared for the County Executive.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at the Waukesha County Expo Center, Forum Building South Hall located at 1000 Northview Road in Waukesha at 7:00 p.m.

It will be helpful for speakers to prepare a written statement to give to the Chair, which will be summarized at the hearing.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may communicate with us in writing by April 3, 2013. Write to: Donna Ferguson, Public Hearing Coordinator
Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services
500 Riverview Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188-3632

SATURDAY PROGRAMS AT RETZER

Come out to Retzer Nature Center on Saturdays for programs and activities that will be wide-ranging, with a general focus on the natural world and sustainability offered by Waukesha County's Retzer Nature Center Naturalists, Recycling, Land Resources and Waukesha School District's Planetarium Staff. Most Saturday programs are family-friendly and geared toward all ages. Walk-ins welcome – Registration is recommended to assure a spot. Groups of 10 or more are required to pre-register. All programs are \$5.00 per person, unless otherwise noted.

March 23 - Root Systems Unseen, 9 – 11 a.m. or 1 – 3 p.m., register by March 18

Come hike the prairie and then take a look at our “Unseen World” display to see just where those roots are! Learn how to keep perennial plants health.

March 30 - Let's Go Fly A Kite!, 9-11 a.m., register by March 25
We will build, decorate and then fly our kites.

March 30 - Brownie Scout Hike Day, 1 – 3 p.m., register by March 25
Work on your Hiker Badge with our naturalist, as we hike beautiful Retzer Nature Center doing a scavenger hunt and learn how to follow directions on a map or get lost trying!

March 30 - Vegetable Gardening, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., FREE
When can I start my garden? Many cool weather vegetables can be started outdoors earlier than you may think. Learn how from UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.



Children participating in Retzer Nature Center program.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PROCESS

Waukesha County will kick off the County's Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIP) On April 22, 2013, at the Treiber Center at Waukesha Memorial Hospital from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The Waukesha County Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIP) began in 2010 with key policy makers and the general public identifying emerging and/or significant health and social problems that affect the health of Waukesha County residents. Extensive data was collected, assembled, analyzed and made available for review, and the top three health priorities for Waukesha County were identified. The goal of the Waukesha County Community Health Plan and Process (CHIP) is to promote good health and prosperity for all Waukesha County residents.

If you would like to attend the event, please RSVP to Rose Reblin at the Waukesha County Public Health Division by April 15, 2013 at 262-896-8475 or reblin@waukeshacounty.gov.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

March is National Preparedness Month. During this month, Waukesha County is asking everyone to "Be a Force of Nature" and prepare for severe weather threats in our area. Each year, individuals are killed or seriously injured by tornadoes and other types of severe weather, despite advance warning. In 2012, there were more than 450 weather-related fatalities and nearly 2,600 injuries. Severe weather knows no boundaries and affects every individual.

The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you and your family. Wisconsin experiences snow storms, tornadoes, flooding and other severe weather, so everyone is exposed to some degree of risk. Check the weather forecast regularly and visit ready.gov/severe-weather and ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov to learn more about how to be better prepared and how you can protect your family during emergencies.

More information and ideas on how you can "Be a Force of Nature" visit ReadyWisconsin.wi.gov. Information on the different types of severe weather such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding is available at www.weather.gov and ready.gov/severe-weather or the Spanish-language web site www.listo.gov.

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