

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



In this issue:

- New County Board Supervisors Elected
- Drug Collection Results
- Tornado Warning Information
- National Infant Immunization Awareness
- Bugline Trail Improvement Project Open House
- Recycling Update



Dear Friends,

Last week, I traveled alongside County Board Chairman Decker, Director of Administration Norm Cummings and others to Chicago to present our budget and fiscal outlook to analysts at Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. While there I told the story of Waukesha County, our many achievements and fiscal outlook ahead. I am so proud of the things I was able to tell them about.

Waukesha County is the third largest county in the State of Wisconsin and one of the fastest growing counties in Wisconsin and nationwide. Alongside Kenosha County, we are the fastest growing county in our region.

According to an independent study by the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance Waukesha County has the lowest per capita spending among all of Wisconsin's counties. Additionally, Waukesha County is one of only 10 counties in the state without a countywide sales tax.

Waukesha County is so strong because of our overall efficiency, as demonstrated by our employees per capita ratio. With 3.6 employees per 1,000 residents, we have one of the lowest employees per capita ratio in the state.

I am so proud of Waukesha County and know that we will continue to be recognized for our achievements in the years to come.

Sincerely,

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NEW COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS ELECTED

Last month, seven new Waukesha County Supervisors were elected, and 18 Supervisors were re-elected, to serve on the Waukesha County Board. The new members are:

- Supervisor Jennifer Grant of Menomonee Falls
- Supervisor Larry Nelson of Waukesha
- Supervisor Mike Crowley of Waukesha
- Supervisor Cathleen Slattery of Oconomowoc
- Supervisor Jim Batzko of Sussex
- Supervisor Keith Hammitt of Muskego
- Supervisor Richard Morris of Merton

Additionally, the Waukesha County Board elected Paul Decker as Chairman of the Board. Decker has served on the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and was overwhelmingly elected as County Board Chairman last month.

In his first weeks as Chairman, Decker announced the chairs of the 7 County Board Standing Committees. They are as follows:

- Executive – Supervisor Paul Decker
- Finance – Supervisor Pat Haukohl
- Personnel – Supervisor Duane Paulson
- Public Works – Supervisor Dave Swan
- Health and Human Services – Supervisor Gilbert Yerke
- Land Use, Parks and Education – Supervisor Jim Heinrich
- Justice and Law Enforcement – Supervisor Dave Falstad

DRUG COLLECTION RESULTS

Nearly 3,300 households dropped off 5,712 pounds of medication at the 7 location sites during the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Coalition's Prescription Drug Collection held on Saturday, April 28th. The drugs collected at the drop-off sites in Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Muskego, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee and Waukesha, will be incinerated by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

The goal of the program is to dispose of unused medications in an effort to reduce prescription drug abuse and accidental poisonings in Waukesha County, help protect local waterways and create awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Since the program began in 2009, nearly 9 tons of medication has been collected and properly disposed.

The drugs were collected under the supervision of local police and the Waukesha County Metro Drug Enforcement Unit. The drugs will be escorted by law enforcement to an incinerator where they will be destroyed.

The group plans to hold drug collections regularly. The collection website, www.waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection, will provide information on the next collection as the date approaches.



Nearly 3 tons of pills, liquid medicine, creams and ointments were collected on April 28.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

TORNADO WARNING INFORMATION

On Thursday, April 19th, Waukesha County participated in a statewide mock Tornado Warning. For the first time ever, Radio, TV and Cable stations across Wisconsin participated in the drill.

When a tornado warning is issued, it is important to “Listen, act and live.” Listen for tornado warnings. Then, take action. Get to the safest shelter available. Do not go outside to look at the sky or seek other confirmations of danger. You are at risk. Take cover.

When an actual warning is issued and threatening weather approaches:

- In a home or building go to the basement and get under a desk, table or staircase.
- If underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a desk or table if possible.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a car. Instead seek shelter in a sturdy structure.
- Do not seek shelter under a highway overpass.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned. Seek shelter in a sturdy structure.

NATIONAL INFANT IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS WEEK

Last month Waukesha County recognized National Infant Immunization Week. The Waukesha County Public Health Division would like to remind you to make sure your child’s shots are up to date.

Immunizations can save your child’s life. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children, have been eliminated completely and others are close to extinction— primarily due to safe and effective vaccines.

Vaccination is very safe and effective. Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccines will involve some discomfort and may cause pain, redness, or tenderness at the site of injection but this is minimal compared to the pain, discomfort, and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are very rare.

Immunization protects others you care about. Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough (pertussis). Unfortunately, some babies are too young to be completely vaccinated and some people may not be able to receive certain vaccinations due to severe allergies, weakened immune systems or other reasons. Making sure that you and your children are fully immunized not only protects your family, but also helps prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones who cannot receive vaccines.

Immunizations can save your family time and money. A child with a vaccine-preventable disease can be denied attendance at schools or daycare facilities. Some vaccine-preventable diseases can result in prolonged disabilities and can take a financial toll because of lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment and usually covered by insurance.

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BUGLINE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

All Waukesha County residents are invited to a Public Information Open House for the Bugline Trail Improvement Project on Thursday, May 10, 2012 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Pauline Haass Public Library, N64 W23820 Main Street in the Village of Sussex.

County staff and representatives from the project design consultant will be available from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Quad/Graphics Room to discuss project details and concerns. Please be advised that there will not be a formal project presentation, and you are welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour meeting timeframe. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to forward your comments regarding the project to Steve Brunner, Waukesha County Senior Landscape Architect, at sbrunner@waukeshacounty.gov.

A second public information open house will be scheduled for later this summer.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

CAPS ON PLASTIC BOTTLES NOW ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING

The Waukesha County Recycling office recently announced that plastic caps on empty #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jars and jugs are now accepted, however the containers must be free of any liquids. Residents can now leave the lids on all empty plastic soda, juice, water, milk, detergent, and cooking oil bottles when they put them into the recycling bin.

“This change to keep lids and caps on plastic bottles is an about-face from previous industry-based recycling requirements, due to market demand for plastics and technological advances that separate the types of plastic,” said Karen Fiedler, Waukesha County Solid Waste Manager.

“Whenever we can add more materials to the recycling bin, even if they are small items like caps, that is a positive thing. Companies are now able to recover and recycle the caps, which are typically a different type of plastic than the bottle,” said Fiedler.

For more information on the new “Caps on – Liquids out” program visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling.

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