

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

Earlier this month the United States celebrated Veterans' Day. This year, not only did the holiday fall on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, this year we celebrated this day in the eleventh year of this millennium.

Ninety-two years ago on this month, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

These words still ring true today. We honor Veterans' Day to pay tribute to so many brave and heroic individuals that risked their lives, many making the ultimate sacrifice, to protect freedom and democracy, virtues that we often take for granted. It is their sacrifice that ensures our freedom, their dedication that keeps us safe, and their courage and love of country that inspires us all. I encourage each of you to pay tribute to these individuals for what they have done to secure these important and time-honored American ideals.

It is important to recognize what our American soldiers do for us every day. As we celebrate the upcoming holidays, please remember those that are currently serving abroad and unable to celebrate with their families. It is also important to honor all veterans who have put, and continue to put, their lives on the line for our freedom. These brave individuals embody patriotism and the American spirit.

Sincerely,



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ANNUAL PARK ENTRANCE STICKERS

Waukesha County Parks' 2012 Annual Park Entrance Stickers will be available beginning December 1st. These entrance stickers are good from date of purchase through December 31, 2012. You can purchase your sticker from 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm at Retzer Nature Center, or the Parks and Land Use Office located at 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room AC230, in Waukesha. Stickers are also available at any of the eight park entrances; if you have any questions please call (262) 548-7801.

The 2012 annual sticker prices are:

- **Waukesha County Resident** - \$27.00 per car and second vehicle is \$14.00 per car (Proof of residency required, limit 2 second vehicles per household and must be purchased at time of Resident Sticker).
- **Waukesha County Resident Senior Citizen** - \$14.00 per car and second vehicle is \$7.00 per car (Proof of age, 60 years and older, and residency required, limit 2 second vehicles per household and must be purchased at time of Resident Senior Citizen Sticker).
- **Non-Waukesha County Resident** - \$38.00 per car. There are no Second Vehicle stickers available for Non-Waukesha County residents.

BUDGET SIGNING

County Executive Dan Vrakas signed the County's 2012 Budget on Thursday, November 17th at Lake Country Fire and Rescue in Delafield. The budget, which had overwhelming support from the County Board, freezes the County portion of the tax bill for most Waukesha County property owners.

Lake Country Fire and Rescue was chosen as the location of the budget signing because of their outstanding consolidation efforts. When the Village of Chenequa, Village of Nashotah and City of Delafield fire departments merged, creating Lake County Fire and Rescue in 2010, the department has reduced costs, eliminated duplication of services and provides the highest level of care for the citizens it serves. Additionally, Waukesha County is partnering with the City of Delafield to rehabilitate County Trunk Highway C in downtown Delafield. Plans include repaving a portion of CTH C and adding curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Once the upgrades are complete, jurisdiction of the road will be transferred from the County to the City. The road, last resurfaced in 1996, is in need of resurfacing, which will be included as part of this project.



County Executive Dan Vrakas signs the 2012 Waukesha County Budget at Lake Country Fire and Rescue in Delafield with Delafield Mayor Ed McAleer, Register of Deeds Jim Behrend, Supervisor Fritz Ruf and Director of Administration Norm Cummings.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

DECEMBER FLU VACCINE CLINICS

It isn't too late to get your 2011-2012 flu shot! The Waukesha County Public Health Division has a limited number of regular and high dose flu vaccines still available and most of the flu season is still ahead.

Immunization clinics are held each month in communities throughout Waukesha County. The vaccine is \$7 for children under 18 and \$30 for adults. The high dose flu vaccine is available for \$45. Cash, check or straight Medicare Part B accepted for payment. Please bring your card with you to the clinic. No Medicare HMO's are accepted. The fee may be waived for eligible children.

Immunizations are also available at the Waukesha County Public Health Center located at 615 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Walk-in service is available at all clinic locations. For immunization clinic dates, times (including evenings), and locations, please visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/flu or call the Waukesha County Public Health Division at (262)896-8430.

Please call to confirm availability of vaccine as there is a limited supply.

“RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING KIDS” ANNUAL ART SHOW

On Thursday, November 17, 2011, the Waukesha County Department of Health & Human Services hosted their 6th Annual “Recognizing Outstanding Kids” (ROKs) Art Show to acknowledge and display the creative efforts and artistic talents of young people who are served by the Department.

The Department of Health and Human Services is an Agency committed to the well being of the community, and because of that belief, ROKs program was created with the thought that young people served by the department contribute to the community in many ways. The group's mission is to provide a range of opportunities to recognize these achievements. The recognition reinforces the growth and development of these individuals, supports and encourages their creativity, and furthers their ability to have a positive impact on the community.

This year 40 young people between the ages of 7 and 18 provided artwork for the show. A mural featuring the importance of volunteerism was a highlight of the event.



Student artwork on display at the 6th annual ROK Art Show.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Due to the upcoming holiday season, Waukesha County will be closed in observation of the holidays. All 24-hour operations such as the Communication Center, Jail, Mental Health Center and Sheriff's Department are not affected by the closure and will maintain their regular schedule. The remaining offices will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th, 2011 – Closed in observation of Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 23rd, 2011 – Closed in observation of Christmas Eve
- Monday, December 26th, 2011 – Closed in observation of Christmas Day
- Friday, December 30th, 2011 – Closed in observation of New Year's Eve
- Monday, January 2nd, 2012 – Closed in observation of New Year's Day

If Waukesha County is closed due to weather related events, closing information will be available on the County website: www.waukeshacounty.gov.



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

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE IN THE EVENT OF A WINTER STORM

With severe winter weather fast approaching, it is time to prepare yourself for a potential emergency. If you get trapped in your car during a blizzard, do you know what to do? Here are some tips on how to survive an incident:

- **Prepare your vehicle:** Make sure you keep your gas tank at least half full.
- **Be easy to find:** Tell someone where you are going and the route you will take.
- **If stuck:** At night, keep your dome light on. Rescue crews can see a small glow at a distance. To reduce battery drain, use emergency flashers only if you hear approaching vehicles.
- **Stay in your vehicle:** Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might become lost or exhausted. Your vehicle is a good shelter.
- **Avoid Overexertion:** Shoveling snow or pushing your car takes a lot of effort in storm conditions. Don't risk a heart attack or injury.
- **Fresh Air:** It's better to be cold and awake than comfortably warm and sleepy.
- **Don't expect to be comfortable:** You want to survive until you're found.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”