

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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Dear Friends,

A few years ago, Waukesha County embarked on updating its Strategic Planning process with a focus group of citizens from the county selected to assist with setting priorities and strategic direction for Waukesha County. Results of the focus group efforts clearly stated that respondents want high quality service at a low cost. With the goal in mind of providing high quality service in a fiscally responsible way, each County department developed measurable goals that would lead to a successful and strategically planned community. Departments then analyzed their goals and created a benchmarking system that, in turn, will be used to create future strategic plans.

Over the past few years, the County has developed key strategic outcomes and these outcomes have been incorporated into the County budget. Many of the key directives and strategic objectives, key outcome indicators and performance measures are evaluated by County Board Committees and me annually during the budget review process. Departments identify strategic objectives expected to be accomplished in the upcoming budget year, are reviewed, monitored and measured to see if progress or improved services are delivered with the resources that are provided annually in their budget.

Every year, County departments update their strategic plans to reflect their goals for the coming years. In preparation for the 2011 budget process, Waukesha County departments are once again going through the process of creating their strategic plans.

I invite and encourage you to review the 2010 Strategic Plans from each department and the executive summary of the plans on the "Strategic Plans" quick link on the County website. I also encourage you to provide us with your feedback so that we continue to serve Waukesha County in the most efficient way possible.

Sincerely,

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United States™
Census
2010

All 2010 Census forms consist of just 10 questions.

2010 Census

Every decade the constitution mandates a census to determine the number of people living in the United States and our territories. As you may have seen on television or read in the newspaper, this year, 2010, is the year of the United States Census and census forms will begin arriving in your mailbox this week.

The data collected from the census is extremely important because it is used by the government, including Waukesha County, for a number of reasons. For instance, the data is used to direct allocation of billions of dollars in government funding, as a guide in planning the construction of new facilities such as hospitals and schools and also for determining the need for social programs and services.

Unlike the last census, every resident will receive a short questionnaire, only 10 questions, to complete and return, so the census form will be easy to fill out and mail back. The Census is completely confidential and answers will not be shared with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies. It is very important that you fill out the form and mail it back.

Waukesha County Recycles

In 2008 Waukesha County launched a sustainability plan aimed at protecting the environment, reducing energy dependency and, ultimately, saving taxpayer dollars. This sustainability plan has been very successful and Waukesha County continues to promote and advance this plan. Some of the County's sustainability successes include:

- Replacing County stop lights with energy efficient LED lights
- Continually researching ways to conserve water
- Paved the airport runways using recycled fly ash
- Recycling yard waste
- Implementing roundabouts at appropriate intersections as a way to cut down on energy costs from the stop lights and fuel emissions from cars that are stopping and going at the light
- Using less salt on the roads in the event of ice and snow by pre-wetting the roads with salt-brine, prior to freezing temperatures, to prevent ice from forming

In addition, one of our internal goals has been to reduce the amount of paper used internally by County employees. Using 2006 as a baseline, Waukesha County focused on reducing paper usage by 20%. Employees were educated on duplex copying, print preview and storing documents electronically to reduce paper waste. In 2009 Waukesha County employees used 29% less paper than the baseline year of 2006. Waukesha County employees continue to find ways to save paper and reduce waste.



Waukesha County continues to reduce paper usage each year.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER UPDATES

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Clinics

- Over the course of the last several months, Waukesha County Public Health has immunized over 15,000 individuals with the H1N1 vaccine. The vaccine will now be provided at routine immunization clinics held at various locations countywide. A schedule for the routine clinics can be found on the County website (www.waukeshacounty.gov/pandemicflu). Next year, the H1N1 vaccine will be included as part of the seasonal flu vaccine.

Flight for Life

- Flight for Life radio communication operations transitioned smoothly to the County's 800 trunked radio system this week. This transition allows for public safety agencies in the County to have better radio communications with Flight for Life for their dispatch centers and their personnel on the street.

Waukesha Bypass Project Enters New Stage

The Waukesha West Bypass project has entered a new stage, the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) stage. In this stage of the project, Waukesha County will gather data such as the location of property lines, topography of the area and the general environment in an effort to determine alternate routes and their impacts.

The Department of Public Works is using a community sensitive approach to the project by forming an advisory committee made up of a range of project stakeholders to assist the study team. These stakeholders, which will have their first meeting on March 24th, include local landowners (residential and commercial), city, town and county officials, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), community groups and employers.

Open house public information meetings will begin in April. Also, as needed, the study team will meet with residents and businesses at their homes or businesses. It is expected that the current phase of the project will be completed by the summer of 2011.

For more information on the bypass project, please visit www.waukeshabypass.org.



A section of the proposed Waukesha West Bypass route is shown above.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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ALCOHOL TREATMENT COURT CELEBRATES MILESTONE

On Thursday, March 11th, Waukesha County celebrated the 100th Alcohol Treatment Court graduation.

When the program began in May 2006, it was the first Alcohol Treatment Court in Wisconsin. Since then, recognizing how successful these programs can be in reducing the number of repeat drunk drivers and jail days served, several other Wisconsin communities have begun their own Alcohol Treatment Court.

Each graduate is a repeat drunk driver who voluntarily enrolled in the program (after conviction and sentencing) and completed four rigorous phases of Alcohol Treatment Court lasting a minimum of one year. Each phase involves intensive supervision, frequent interactions with the judge, alcohol testing/monitoring and on-going treatment.

In 2009 alone, 40 Waukesha County residents graduated from the program and only 4% of the participants were discharged due to a new Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offense.



Judge Kathryn Foster congratulates a recent Alcohol Treatment Court graduate.

WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK'S UPDATE

Ice arenas are open every day for public skating!

Eble Park Ice Arena

Monday - Friday..... 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday.....2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena

Monday thru Friday: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Family Days at Waukesha County Golf Courses

All season long, any youth (age 17 and under) can golf FREE with paying adult (limit one child per adult) at time and locations below:

Moor Downs, 438 Prospect Avenue in Waukesha, Sundays after 12:00 p.m.

Wanaki, N50 W20830 Lisbon Road in Menomonee Falls, Saturdays after 3:00 p.m.



Follow County Executive Dan Vrakas on Twitter!

Username:
CoExecDanVrakas

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”