

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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



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Dear Friends,

With summer approaching, there are many opportunities for Waukesha County residents to enjoy the outdoors and all that Waukesha County has to offer. All Waukesha County golf courses and camp grounds are now open, and beginning June 4th, Waukesha County's six beaches will also be open for you to enjoy. Also opening on June 4th is Waukesha County's newly paved Lake Country Trail. The next page of this newsletter outlines this special Grand Re-Opening event.

July provides many opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors and celebrate the birthday of our country. The 4th of July is a special holiday and I encourage all Waukesha County residents to celebrate our great nation by taking in a parade or a civic celebration. Many local communities offer parades and events to mark the day. Also in July, from the 20th to the 24th, we will celebrate our 169th annual Waukesha County Fair at the Waukesha County Expo Center.

In August, from the 26th to the 28th, the Waukesha County Airport will be celebrating "Wings Over Waukesha." This family-friendly event celebrates aviation and salutes our military aviation history. Attendance is again expected to be about 7,000 local Waukesha County residents and visitors from the surrounding region, including families, active and retired military, aviation enthusiasts, history buffs and others looking for a fun weekend event.

As each of these events approach, we will provide additional details in this newsletter. Also, information is available on the Waukesha County website: www.waukeshacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

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DRUG COLLECTION RESULTS

Nearly 2,300 vehicles dropped off 4,596 pounds of medication, collectively, at the 6 location sites during the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Coalition's Prescription Drug Collection held on Saturday, May 14th. At the collection, with drop-off sites in Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee and Waukesha, 4,150 pounds of non-controlled and 292 pounds of controlled substances, as well as 154 pounds of inhalants and mercury thermometers, were disposed of.

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, as a result of 3 collections, nearly 6 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 properly 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.

LAKE COUNTRY TRAIL RE-OPENING

All Waukesha County residents are invited to "Ride through the Ribbon" at Waukesha County Park System's Lake Country Trail on Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m. This event will mark the ribbon-cutting and grand re-opening of the newly paved, ten-foot wide trail, that now extends 15 miles. With the widening and resurfacing of the path, the Lake Country Trail meets the standards of a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian path.

The ceremony will be held at the Landsberg Building, 2800 Golf Road, Waukesha. The Grand Reopening is free and will last approximately one hour. The public is encouraged to bike, walk, roll or stroll the trail for the official "ride through the ribbon."

Seventy local children will receive a free helmet on a first-come, first-serve basis. Helmets have been made available, at no cost, as part of the Habush Habush & Rottier Charitable Foundation's statewide helmet distribution tour. After this summer's helmet donations, the Habush firm will have donated 91,500 helmets to Wisconsin's kids since donations began in 1999.

The Lake Country Trail is part of the Waukesha County Park System, which is a natural resource based park system that demonstrates stewardship while providing recreational and educational opportunities. For more information visit www.waukeshacountyparks.com.



The Re-Opening event will take place at the Landsberg Building in Waukesha, pictured above.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

NATURE DESIGN STUDIO PROGRAM

This new, week-long summer camp allows children ages 7-12 explore nature through art and design at Retzer Nature Center. Each monthly session will focus on a different area of our environment. Children will take home completed projects at the end of the week. Each program is outlined below:

- **“Enviro-Blocks”** In this June session, create a wall hanging using stenciling, flower pounding, painting and sun printing. Monday-Friday, June 20-24 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. Register by: Monday, June 13.
- **“Enviro-Made”** In this July session, create and design a garden stepping stone, basket weaving, tie dying with natural dyes, and wind chimes. Monday-Friday, July 11-15 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. Register by: Tuesday, July 5.
- **“Enviro-Graphic”** In this August session, learn about and explore flower/leaf pressing, photography, journaling and stamping. Monday-Friday, August 8-12 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. Register by: Monday, August 1.

The program costs \$75.00 per child per session. For more information call (262) 548-7801.

BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETINGS

As part of the budget creation process, Waukesha County holds a series of Budget Town Hall meetings to communicate with residents on our budget activities. These meetings are essential in the budget process as they provide an opportunity for stakeholders – taxpayers – to provide input and feedback on how the county is doing.

This year, Waukesha County will be holding three Budget Town Hall presentations. The dates and locations are outlined below:

Thursday, July 14, 2011 - 6:30 p.m.

Delafield City Hall

500 Genesee Street, Delafield

Exit #285 off I-94, Take County Trunk Highway C north (Genesee Rd.)

Thursday, July 21, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.

Mukwonago Citizens Bank – Waukesha Branch

2109 Corporate Drive, Waukesha

Corner of Highway 59 (Les Paul Parkway) and then south on Center Rd., and take left onto Corporate Drive

Monday, July 25, 2011 - 6:00 p.m.

Waukesha County Courthouse

515 W. Moreland Blvd., Room 350, Waukesha

SW corner of Pewaukee Road (Hwy. J) and Moreland Boulevard



The County Executive presents at a 2010 Budget Town Hall Meeting.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AWARDS LUNCHEON

Nominations are now being sought for the 16th annual Waukesha County Executive Awards program to recognize organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors. An independent panel of judges will assess how each nominee contributes to the success of Waukesha County and the people they serve. At the awards luncheon, the Business of the Year and Government Agency of the Year winners will receive awards. In addition to the award, the Large and Small Non-Profits of the Year will receive grants.

If you know of an organization that deserves to be recognized as one of the best, please submit an awards application by Friday, July 22 at 4:30 p.m. Awards criteria and nomination form can be downloaded from the County's website at www.waukeshacounty.gov or can be obtained by calling the County Executive's office at (262) 548-7902.



Follow County Executive Dan Vrakas on Twitter!

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Volunteers are needed to play the role of citizens coming to a Public Health mass clinic exercise. You will have the opportunity to experience what it would be like to receive preventive medicine at a mass clinic during a public health emergency. You will also learn about anthrax and its prevention, the workings of a mass clinic, and participate in the exercise evaluation. Your input is very valuable to us.

The exercise will take place on Wednesday, June 15th, at the Waukesha County Expo Center/Forum Building, located at 1000 Northview Rd., in Waukesha from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Community members, college students, and academic faculty are encouraged to volunteer. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Rose Reblin by calling (262) 896-8475 or emailing reblin@waukeshacounty.gov, by June 1, 2011.



“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”