



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth
County Intergovernmental
Cooperation Council (ICC)



Large-flowered Bellwort (Uvularia grandiflora)
Photo: Christine Regester, UW-Extension Office

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Spring 2011

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Welcome, Local Elected Officials

Congratulations to all recently elected and re-elected town and village board members, as well as city alderpersons. There are a number of newly-elected town chairpersons and village presidents, including Ryan Simons, Delavan Town Chair; Joe Klarkowski, East Troy Town Chair; Joe Kopecky, Geneva Town Chair; James Weiss, Linn Town Chair; Joy Bartelson, Lyons Town Chair; Rich Brandl, Sharon Town Chair; Don Henningfeld, Spring Prairie Town Chair; John Wrzeszcz, Genoa City Village President; David Rasmussen, Walworth Village President; and, John Marra, Williams Bay Village President.

We extend an invitation to all mayors, town chairpersons and village presidents to attend future Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) meetings. The next meeting of the ICC will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011. Meetings are held at 6:00 PM at the County Government Center. Agendas are normally posted approximately one week prior to the meeting and provided to chief local elected officials as well as town and municipal clerks. In addition, meeting agendas are available on the ICC web page through the county's website, www.co.walworth.wi.us. Click on "Boards & Committees" and then look for the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council link in the column on the right-hand side of the page. All meetings are open to the public.

Open Meetings - Public Records - Ethics Training

As part of its Leadership Academy Program, on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, the county will offer a workshop for local elected officials on the Wisconsin Open Meetings and Public Records laws as well as the Code of Ethics for local government officials. The workshop will be taught by County staff, and is being offered to town and municipal officials free of charge. To register send an email to the County Administrator's office, sharring@co.walworth.wi.us, or feel free to call 262-741-4357. We would appreciate knowing by Friday, May 6 if you plan to attend. The workshop will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 PM in County Board room 114 at the Walworth County Government Center in Elkhorn. A number of state organizations offer training on these topics in more depth. It would be ideal if you could attend one of those sessions; however, if you can't, give serious thought to attending our training in May.

Summer 2011

Meeting

Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)

June 28, 2011 - 6

The next ICC meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 28 at 6:00 PM. If you have any agenda items you would like us to include, please contact Dave Bretl, County Administrator, at 262-741-4357 or send an email to him at: dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us

Doing More with Less

Joshua Clements, Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development Agent, informed us about a workshop being offered by the UW-Extension Local Government Center (LGC) entitled “Collaborative Leadership for Service Delivery.” It is the first workshop in a series of sessions designed to provide local leaders with the tools to educate and motivate others in providing better customer service delivery at the best possible price. Those participating in the workshop sessions can earn certification as a Local Government Institute (LGI) Service Innovation Leader. The program will be covered in six sessions and is recommended for local elected officials and staff who serve in leadership roles. Participation in the first workshop session is a requirement for those wishing to pursue certification. The workshop will provide basic concepts for identifying opportunities for change; initiating dialog to act on opportunities; analyzing costs and benefits; negotiating cooperative agreements; implementing and maintaining initiatives; communicating value with principals and stakeholders; and, maximizing efficiency of government services and processes.

The first LGC Collaborative Leadership workshop is scheduled for April 28, 2011

from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Site locations that still have open registration include Gateway Technical College - Racine campus and the Pyle Center in Madison.

Other LGC workshop offerings include: “Legislation and Case Law Update” regarding land use planning and implementation; “Buy Local Campaigns,” highlighting buy local movements and the impact of buy local campaigns on communities; “Regulation of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing,” which is part of the LGC’s Current Issues Affecting Local Government Officials series; “Conducting the Annual Board of Review,” presented by Rick Stadelman of the Wisconsin Towns Association; “Town Officials Workshops,” a popular workshop that includes sessions on the powers and duties of town officials, open meetings law, ethics and conflicts of interest, town road funding and maintenance, effective meetings and budgeting; and, finally, “What Every New Clerk Needs To Know and Didn’t Know To Ask.” For more information about LGC workshops, check the LGC website: <http://lgc.uwex.edu//>

While these classes represent a significant time commitment, given the challenging times we find ourselves in, bringing innovation to local government is more important than ever.

Walworth County P-card Savings

At the last ICC meeting, we reported that Walworth County has been using purchasing cards or “P-cards” to make some large purchases. A P-card is a credit card, which has the advantage of providing us with a “cash back” rebate on purchases that are made. In this manner, it works like a Discover card that you may carry in your own wallet. Our list of P-card purchases now includes the county’s 2011 road projects, which will total \$8.5 million. B.R. Amon and Sons was recently awarded the bid, which includes reconstruction work on Highways A, ES and J. Credit cards can be prone to abuse; therefore, it’s important to have good controls in place to maintain accountability. If you think your town or municipality would benefit from a purchasing card program, feel free to call the county’s purchasing department to learn more about the program. The county’s purchasing manager, Peggy Watson, can be reached at 262-741-7261.