



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth
County Intergovernmental
Cooperation Council (ICC)



Volume 4, Issue 4

Fall 2011

Sunrise at County Annex - October 18, 2011

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Walworth County OWI Court Implementation

In December 2009, Walworth County was faced with the prospect of having to expand its jail to accommodate an ever increasing number of prisoners. Not only was the prospect of a new jail expensive (\$11.5 million in capital costs alone), but it would not solve the underlying problem of why some people cannot break the cycle of recidivism. The county's Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC), which is comprised of stakeholders in the criminal justice system, began to look at this issue carefully. After considerable planning, the committee has implemented a treatment court in certain drunk driving cases. Evidence shows that a program like this not only improves public safety, but also reduces costs.

Our October 25 agenda includes a presentation by the Honorable David Reddy, Branch IV Circuit Court, regarding OWI court implementation in Walworth County. We hope you will be able to join us to learn about this important program.

**Fall 2011 Meeting
Intergovernmental
Cooperation Council
October 25, 2011 - 6 PM
Walworth County
Government Center
County Board Room 114**

Agenda highlights:

- * OWI Court presentation
- * QECB Municipal Financing
- * County Election Process

County Board Candidate Informational Meeting

If you have ever thought about running for the County Board or just want to learn more about County government, consider attending a workshop for potential candidates on November 11th. The purpose of the class is to give potential candidates an idea about what the Board does and the approximate time commitment involved in serving. The informational workshop was successfully offered in 2007 and 2009.

(Turn to page 2 for workshop overview.)

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

County Board Candidate informational meeting (cont'd.)

Workshop: County Government overview for Citizens

Presenters: County Board Chair Nancy Russell and County Administrator David Bretl

What: A workshop for potential County Board candidates to provide them with an overview of the Walworth County operation and objective information concerning the commitment necessary to ensure successful service on the Board.

When: Friday, November 11 from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon

Where: County Board room 114 in the Government Center in Elkhorn

If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact the County Administrator's office by November 7 at 262.741.4357 or send an email to sharring@co.walworth.wi.us.

Municipal Financing Solutions Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs)

A tax credit bond program for state and local governments, called the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) program, allows governmental bond issuers to borrow for projects such as energy conservation and mass transit, to name just a couple. The borrowing rate on QECB projects is at a lower effective rate than traditional tax-exempt bonds. Walworth County has not utilized its QECB allocation of \$1,050,658 to issue any bonds. Municipalities that qualify under the Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 may be eligible to utilize this allocation. Since we haven't utilized any of this borrowing capacity, the State of Wisconsin is asking that we relinquish it so other municipalities can use it. Before we do that, we want to see if any local government in the county is interested in using the borrowing capacity. Walworth County's bonding agency, Robert W. Baird & Company, will be providing a brief presentation regarding the QECB program at our ICC meeting on October 25th.

County Elections 2012

Politics in Wisconsin have been a volatile mix of partisan issues, State law changes, recalls and recounts. Local officials will be faced with all of these issues during the 2012 elections. County Clerk Kim Bushey will attend our October 25 meeting to lead an open discussion regarding some of the law changes, challenges and other concerns encountered by the County Clerk, Municipal Clerks and Election Inspectors for the 2012 elections. Please join us for this discussion, and be ready with any questions you may have about the election process.