



# Neighbors

Newsletter of the  
Walworth County  
Intergovernmental  
Cooperation Council (ICC)



SPRING 2014

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

## Winter of Our Discontent

It has been one of the harshest winters that I can recall in many years. I appreciate how all of our communities pulled together when the salt supply ran low. As tough as things were, we were in far better shape than many other counties. Construction of a second dome at our public works yard in 2010 added storage capacity for salt, countywide. According to Central Services Director Kevin Brunner, Walworth County has the ability to store 37,500 tons of salt. Kevin, along with Captain Scott McClory from the Sheriff's Office, gave a brief presentation at our last ICC meeting concerning winter road maintenance. Captain McClory is requesting that

each municipality provide to the Sheriff's Office up to three individuals who can be contacted during the day or after hours to discuss pending road issues. If, for example, a town road becomes impassible, the Sheriff's patrol division would like a point-of-contact with which to discuss the situation. The Sheriff is also looking for a local contact person to field citizen questions and complaints regarding road conditions. You can provide this information to Captain McClory at [smcclory@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:smcclory@co.walworth.wi.us), or feel free to contact Vicki Price at the County Administrators Office for a form. Vicki's number is 262-741-4351.

### Mark Your Calendars

Fall 2014

ICC Meeting

Tuesday, October 28

6:00 PM

Walworth County

Government Center

If any member has a topic they would like included on the agenda, contact Dave Bretl at (262) 741.4357 or by email, [dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us)

## County Changes

A number of important changes have taken place during the county in recent months. First, we lost our friend and long-serving coroner John Griebel in December. John had been coroner since 1960 and was Wisconsin's longest-serving elected official at the time of his death. Governor Walker recently appointed John's replacement, Ron Person. Ron had worked for many years as a detective and later lieutenant of detectives at the Sheriff's office.

Finally, after 42 years of service, Sheriff David Graves announced that he will be retiring. Dave served as sheriff for the past 14 years and will continue to serve until his term ends on January 4, 2015. We wish Dave the best in his well deserved retirement.

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- ⇒ *Lights, Camera, Action!*

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Michael Cotter, the county's Land Use and Resource Management Director, gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on the impacts of movie filming in municipalities. A few years ago, the movie Dillinger was filmed in Columbus, Wisconsin. The movie generated a great deal of publicity and spawned any number of urban legends regarding how much the city made on the movie deal. In reality, the aftermath of the project was mixed. Many retailers appreciated the increased business, while others complained that customers could not get to their stores. In some cases, the movie's producers paid for upgrades to building facades in the downtown. Given that the State of Wisconsin provided a film tax credit of \$4.6 million while NBC Universal spent just \$5 million in Wisconsin on the film, the movie's impact on the State's economy was questionable. From an intergovernmental cooperation perspective, things could have been better. The film

prompted a lawsuit between Dodge County and Columbus over road repairs. During filming, vehicles were diverted from state highways onto a county road which couldn't hold up to the truck traffic.

Mr. Cotter's message was that a film project may be a great opportunity for a community, but the "devil is in the details." A written agreement with the producers is a must, as is constant communication among all of the communities that will be impacted by the project.

If you think that the idea of movie filming in Walworth County is far-fetched, think again. A number of movies and shows were shot in our county, including:

- ⇒ Chain Reaction - 1996 action film
- ⇒ Beast of Bray Road - 2005
- ⇒ Dillinger - 1991 made-for-TV movie
- ⇒ Mythbusters - cable television show

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## Southern Housing Region Housing Program Can Help

If someone in your community is struggling with basic home repair issues, there may be help. Walworth County is part of the Southern Housing Consortium, along with nine other counties in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Consortium was awarded \$2.4 million by the State of Wisconsin last fall. Certain low and moderate income residents are eligible to receive zero percent, deferred payment loans to make home improvements for handicap accessibility and repairs, including windows, doors, siding, roofing and electrical, plumbing and heating systems. You can learn more about the program by contacting Kari Justmann at **1-800-552-6330** or by visiting the link entitled "Southern Housing Region 0% Loans" on the Walworth County website, <http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/>.

## April 1 is Election Day - Remember to vote!

Remember, April 1 is election day. All eleven Walworth County Board Supervisors are up for re-election. Judging from the campaign signs that I have seen throughout the county, there are numerous contested municipal elections taking place, as well. Voter turn-out, particularly at the spring election, is often disappointing. According to Walworth County Clerk Kim Bushey, at the spring election held two years ago, only 19,518 of the county's 57,202 registered voters cast a ballot. Show your leadership in your community by taking the time to vote.