



Neighbors

Newsletter of the
Walworth County
Intergovernmental
Cooperation Council (ICC)



FALL 2014

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

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, 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

Spring 2015

ICC Meeting

Tuesday, May/June?

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

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 Persson. 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.

On page 2 :

- ⇒ *Election Day*
- ⇒ *Southern Housing 0% Loans*
- ⇒ *Lights, Camera, Action!*

UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The UW-Extension Local Government Center has announced their programs of interest relating to local government that are offered in Wisconsin. Information about the UWEX Local Government Center and its programming may be found at lgc.uwex.edu.

Some of the programs for October include Election Training: Baseline Chief Inspector, Town-County Relationships in Zoning, Opening Meets and Public Records Laws, Zoning Workshop for Board of Adjustment/Appeals. In November programs to be held include Phosphorus discharge Regulations, Open Meetings and Public Records Laws, and Updating Your Comprehensive Plan.

The 67th Annual Convention for the Wisconsin Towns Association will be held October 26-28 at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Stevens Point. The workshop topics include Worker's Compensation Claims,

Shoreland Zoning, Having a Squared Away Police Department, Implements of Husbandry, Ethics, Tax Increment Financing, USDA Rural Development, Lake Districts and Dam Maintenance, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, Conducting Fearless Job Performance Reviews, Recycling in Wisconsin, Changes to the Managed Forest Law, Issues Facing Rural Schools, Zoning Boards of Adjustment and Boards of Appeal, Smart Growth planning General Transportation Aids overview, Employment Law, something called Legal Cracker Barrel and Strategic Planning for Local Governments and Organizations. It looks like there is something for everyone in that list. Questions call 715-526-3157, registration forms available at <http://wisctowns.com>.

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.