



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth County
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)

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Winter in Walworth County Price Park

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Municipal Officials Appointed

The Village of Darien appointed Marc Dennison as Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer in October 2008. Marc began work in December. Prior to his appointment, Marc was Economic Development Director for the city of Pine Island, Minnesota.

In January, the town of Geneva appointed former County Board Supervisor, Margaret Downing, to serve as Town Administrator. Margaret had previously served two consecutive terms on the Walworth County Board, from 2004 through 2008.

Congratulations to Marc and Margaret and good luck in your new leadership roles!

Training Offered for Local Government Officials

In our August 2008 issue of *Neighbors*, we extended an invitation to the county's cities, towns and villages to participate in the county's Leadership Academy training, which was held on September 30 and October 1. We have traditionally held this training for County managers; however, in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, we offered seats to officers and employees of other units of government in the county. I am pleased to report that Geneva Town Clerk Debra Kirch took us up on our offer and is the first local official to complete our program! Topics covered at the leadership training included:

- FMLA & FLSA Laws
- Employee discipline
- Effective budgeting & financial reporting
- Management literature review
- County Board Supervisor perspective of operations
- Media relations
- HIPAA Law
- Employee relations over-

view & enhancing employee performance

- Boardmanship
- The management perspective
- Effective writing

The training is offered periodically. We will let ICC members know about future classes.

On December 4th, the county hosted a workshop on performance measurement presented by Alan Probst, Local Government Specialist with the UW-Extension Local Government Center. Alan's presentation included highlights from his research document, *Performance Measurement, Benchmarking and Outcome Based Budgeting for Wisconsin Local Government*. A number of municipal officials participated in the training, including representatives from Walworth County, Lake Geneva, Whitewater, Elkhorn and the town of Delavan.

If anyone has suggestions for classes, just let me know.

January 27, 2009 ICC Meeting

Our January agenda includes a round table discussion with local legislators concerning issues of common interest. If there are any issues that your local board or council would like to bring to the attention of our local State assembly representatives and senators, please come prepared to discuss these at the meeting. To help us prepare for the round table discussion, we will be compiling a list of issues of common concern and interest. I would appreciate ICC members forwarding your questions and comments to my office, to the attention of my assistant, Suzanne, by Monday, January 26th.

Waukesha County Municipalities' Service Pool

I thought an article that appeared in the September 6, 2008 edition of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* had some applications for our group. Three municipalities in Waukesha County are exploring whether sharing some services could produce property tax saving for residents. According to the article, officials in the villages of Lisbon, Merton and Sussex are having discussions on the following topics:

- Whether the municipalities can save money on professional services, such as accountants, attorneys, engineers and financial consultants, by bidding for those services as one entity instead of three groups.
- Whether they can combine their street repaving and repair projects to get a lower price for contractors.
- Whether they can combine purchases for road salt and sand to keep roads passable in the winter; grass seed and fertilizers for parks; and, lawn mowers and other equipment, to get discounts.

For now, the discussions are occurring among the three village presidents and one member each from the municipalities' boards. The group is called the Joint Services Assessment Panel. They were to meet in the fall of 2008. If anyone is familiar with the progress of this group, let me know and I will pass it on to other ICC members.

Census Bureau Requests Assistance in Identifying Homeless Populations

The county recently received a request from the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau to help identify the homeless populations in our county. I am requesting your assistance to ensure that Walworth County is not undercounted during the next census. The correspondence we received from the Census Bureau requests that we provide information concerning emergency and transitional shelters

for the homeless, soup kitchens and mobile food vans that provide services to homeless individuals. The Bureau is attempting to ascertain the number of individuals who avail themselves of the services provided at such locations in order to ensure that those who do not have a permanent residence or address are accounted for. I would appreciate any information you can provide to assist us in answering this re-

quest. I ask that you forward information to my office to the attention of my assistant, Suzanne, by no later than Monday, January 26, 2009. If you prefer to use email, Suzanne's address is: sharring@co.walworth.wi.us. If you wish, you can call her at 262.741.4357. We will be compiling the information we receive and forwarding it to the Census Bureau. Thank you for helping the homeless of our county.

Walworth County Sheriff's Agreement for Photo Processing Services

The Walworth County Sheriff's office has an agreement with the local Walgreen's stores for the provision of photo processing services. Representatives of local government units may wish to let their police chiefs know that the contract has worked well and is available for them to "piggy-back" on. If you have any questions concerning the Sheriff's agreement with Walgreen's, feel free to contact Walworth County Undersheriff Kurt Picknell at 262.741.4400 or you can email Kurt at kpicknel@co.walworth.wi.us.