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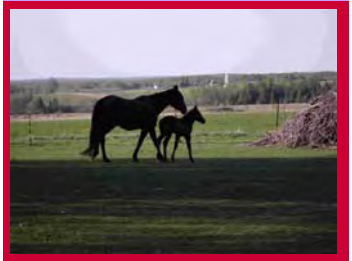


Spring on the farm, Ringle

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER BY THE MARATHON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Private On-Site Waste Treatment Systems

Jim Burgener, Conservation Planning & Zoning

Comm 83 regulates private on-site waste treatment systems (POWTS). The code was updated in 2008 and now requires that all septic systems be inspected and serviced at least every 3 years. Counties are charged with developing a POWTS inventory and maintenance program.

WHY?
Properly functioning systems protect public and environmental health.

WHO?
Systems built after July 1, 1980 are already in the program. The expanded program now requires systems built before July 1980 to participate.

WHAT?
The inspection must be completed by one of the following professionals:

- Master plumber
- POWTS inspector
- POWTS maintainer
- Certified septage servicing operator (septic pumpers)

The inspection identifies:

- Condition of tank
- Locking device for above ground covers
- Surface discharge and ponding

WHEN?
Revisions to Comm 83 require the inventory be completed by October 2013 and inspection & maintenance by October 2015.

The Environmental Resources Committee voted to rescind their earlier decision to initiate maintenance requirements with a 2013 completion deadline. The committee will discuss implementation in upcoming meetings.

Keep in mind….
If a system passes the visual inspection, it does not guarantee the system complies with the code. A more thorough inspection is required by Marathon County when property is transferred.

The Wisconsin Fund may provide limited financial assistance for system replacement.

Road Weight Limits

Diane Wessel, Conservation, Planning & Zoning

In February, Marathon County and State Patrol hosted an informational meeting on road weight limits.

State Patrol presented information regarding how and what regulations counties, towns, cities and villages may impose (either more restrictive or less restrictive than state regulations) on haulers on our roads. Since the meeting, questions were raised about local government's authority.

To address these questions, the Wisconsin Towns Association and Marathon County Corporation Counsel have weighed in on the subject.

Wisconsin Towns Association: There is no statutory authority for local government (other than 1st class cities) to authorize vehicles to exceed statutory weight limits. The Towns Association recommends against authorizing haulers to exceed statutory weight limits.

For more information: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/carriers/osowgeneral.htm

If your community chooses to grant single trip permits or exemptions to haulers, consult with your municipal attorney.

Marathon County Corporation Counsel: Local authorities may issue single trip permits to exceed statutory weight within its municipal boundaries, but not **seasonal** weight limits. Multiple use permits may only be authorized by WisDOT.

Exemptions or alternative weight limits may be established for classes of commodities or services if it is necessary to promote public health, safety and welfare. There is a mandatory exemption from seasonal weight limits for septic/holding tank material haulers. Individuals may not be exempted, only classes of commodities.

Waste Storage Facility Abandonment

Shawn Esser, Conservation, Planning and Zoning

In the last two decades the number of dairy farms in Marathon County has been reduced by approximately 1,000. This resulted in a large number of idle waste storage facilities on the landscape.

Often times, these facilities were left full of manure as the farmer no longer needed the nutrients nor did they want to pay for the cost of hauling the manure onto cropland.

To address this issue, Marathon County revised the Animal Waste Ordinance in 2000 requiring all landowners to properly abandon waste storage facilities within two years of becoming "idle."

Idle facilities pose a health and safety issue. The health issue is the potential contamination of groundwater by nitrates or bacteria. The safety issue is a result of a grass mat that tends to grow on the surface making them inconspicuous to the untrained eye.

The county completed an inventory of all facilities in 2006. 894 facilities have been inventoried. Of those, 90 have been properly abandoned and 86 remain idle.

For more information or assistance on properly closing idle waste facilities, contact Shawn Esser at 715-261-6010.

Landowners that voluntarily abandon their facilities receive cost share grants to offset the cost of closure. Marathon County has provided $348,000 in grants to help pay for closure.

Idle storage facilities is a priority in CPZ. We will continue our efforts to make sure they are properly closed.

Removal of grass mat during abandonment

Rabies Vaccinations Save Lives. Protect Your Whole Family

Lindsay Benaszeski, Health Department

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus in saliva of infected mammals. It is transmitted by bites or scratches breaking the skin. Wisconsin law requires all dogs to be vaccinated against rabies. Vaccinations are also available for cats, ferrets, and livestock.

In 2009, the Health Department followed up on 244 animal bites. 174 were dog bites, 22% involved children 10 years old or younger.

Wild animals that bite are submitted to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for rabies testing. Pets that bite are quarantined for 10 days and require a series of examinations by a veterinarian to verify the animal is not exhibiting signs of rabies.

Exposure to rabies may be minimized by controlling strays, enforcing leash laws, vaccinating pets and livestock, and staying away from wild animals exhibiting unusual behavior.

For more information: 715-261-1908

On the web:

dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/Rabies/RabiesInWisconsin.htm

Illegal Dumping on County and Town Property

Tom Lovlien, Parks Recreation and Forestry

Shingles dumped illegally in the Town of Ringle

Several times a year local and county employees spend time and taxpayers' money cleaning up and disposing illegally dumped items on County and Town property.

Last fall County officials discovered approximately eight yards of roofing materials at a Ringle forest unit parking lot. Law enforcement investigated but unfortunately couldn't find the people responsible.

Here's how you can help:

- Promptly report illegal dumping.
- Be aware of vehicles on infrequently traveled roads and record license numbers of those carrying large items.
- Look for identifying information such as an envelope with an address, serial numbers, etc.

Penalties range from $186-$390.

Additionally, the responsible party is required to pay for the cleanup or pick up the trash.

To report dumping
On County property: 715-261-1550
On Town property: 715-261-1200

Marathon County Highway Department 2010 Construction

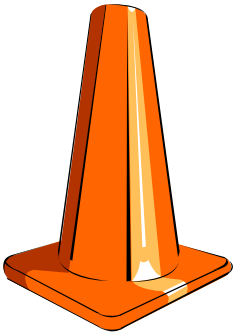
Kevin Lang, Highway Department

Marathon County Highway Department maintains over 600 miles of county highways. The highway pavements have an average lifetime of approximately 20 years. To maintain the infrastructure, we have a goal of replacing 25 – 30 miles of pavement each year.

In 2010 the Department will resurface 24.9 miles of county highways.

The Highway Department will also be replacing the bridge on CTH A west of CTH O crossing the Little Rib River in the Town of Berlin. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in July.

Need more information?
www.co.marathon.wi.us/highway.asp
under the "Road Project" link.



Roadway	2010 Project Limits	Length	Start Date
CTH A	STH 13 – STH 97	11.7 miles	May 24
CTH F	CTH P – CTH N	3.5 miles	June 28
CTH E	CTH N – STH 29	3 miles	July 6
CTH E	STH 29 – CTH A	4 miles	July 12
CTH M	Silver Leaf Rd – V. of Athens	1.8 miles	August 2
CTH XX	Business 51 – Industrial Avenue	0.4 miles	August 23
CTH XX	Trailwood Ln – Terrebonne Dr	0.5 miles	August 23

Census 2010

Diane Wessel, Conservation Planning & Zoning

Census enumerators will be going door to door beginning in May. They will visit households that did not mail back their Census forms.

Please encourage residents to cooperate with the enumerators.

Their response helps to keep our tax dollars local!

For safety...

- Census workers carry US Census Bureau badges.
- Ask to see a photo identification to compare to the name on the badge.
- If you are not sure, ask for the worker's supervisor's name and phone number.
- Enumerators do NOT ask for financial information or social security number.

You can still complete your Census questionnaire.

Call: 866-872-6868

Legislative Spotlight: AB 834 —Comprehensive Planning

Diane Wessel, Conservation Planning & Zoning

AB834 identifies the actions that must be consistent with a comprehensive plan, specifies that a comprehensive plan is not a regulation by itself, and allows communities without village powers to adopt plans. The bill defines "consistent with" as "Furthers or does not contradict the objectives, goals and policies contained in the comprehensive plan".

AB834 also extends the consistency requirement deadline to January 1, 2012 for communities that have not adopted a comprehensive plan. The extension only applies to communities that meet the following requirements:

- Adopts a resolution stating it will adopt a comprehensive plan by January 1, 2012
- Has not received a planning grant

Only the Town of Cleveland in Marathon County would qualify for the extension since all other communities have either adopted a comprehensive plan or participated in the multi-jurisdictional grant.

To read AB 834 visit
www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/AB-834.pdf

Community Connections

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #186
Wausau, WI

Marathon County CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

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Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040
Health: 261-1900
Highway: 261-1800
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550
Solid Waste: 446-3339
UW-Extension: 261-1230

The Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee provides guidance on policies and strategies that balance, protect and enhance environmental and community resources through cooperation with all levels of government.

We're on the Web!
www.co.marathon.wi.us

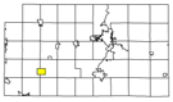
Deadline for NFIP Participation is Near!

All incorporated communities and Marathon County must adopt or update a floodplain zoning ordinance by July 22 to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. A model ordinance is available on the DNR's website or from CPZ.

Communities that do not participate are not eligible for disaster relief from flooding, floodplain insurance and some grant programs. Contact Diane in CPZ if you need assistance.

Stratford's Heritage Trail Update

June Krueger, Stratford Clerk



Construction is underway for Stratford's Heritage Trail! Janke General Contractors of Athens was the contract award winner for Phase One of the project.

This initial non-motorized trail section will run from the Stratford High School athletic fields and the school forest, to the industrial park, winding through the wetlands area south of the industrial park, and out to Hwy 97 near the fire station.

From the school forest area, it is just a short walk up North Street to the Klemme Reserve trails and the Knoll Fitness Center.

The main trail will be a crushed rock surface with boardwalks through the wetlands.

MSA Professional Services is assisting the Village with engineering and project management.

The entire project was originally estimated at around $500,000, with 50% matching funds approved from the Wisconsin DNR's Local Parks and Recreational Trail Acts Programs. Many local residents and businesses, along with area trail enthusiasts, have shown their support with nearly $50,000 raised so far. In addition, the Marathon County Board recently approved a $50,000 contribution to the Heritage Trail from the American Transmission Company's reparations fund. This is a huge boost to the local fund raising efforts!

We are very thankful to Marathon County Board Member Bob Wiesman for his diligence in moving the funding request through the county's channels to a very successful result. Thanks Bob!

With cooperative weather conditions, Janke anticipates completion by the end of August.

STRATFORD'S HERITAGE TRAIL
Est. 2009
Our Turn
Our Grandparents' Legacy • Our Grandchildren's Future