



Volume 3, Issue 3  
**SUMMER 2016**

# Wisconsin Central Time NEWS

## A seasonal Marathon County eNewsletter

Learn what County leaders, officials, and staff are doing to make Marathon County a great place to **work, play, and live.**

[www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)



**By Brad Karger**  
Marathon County Administrator

## Getting Our Priorities Straight

160 million dollars (\$160,000,000) is A LOT of money. That's the size of Marathon County's annual budget.

**So don't let anybody tell you that the County is broke—** We are FAR from broke.

The real challenge we face is that every year, our operational costs go up 2 million dollars (\$2,000,000) while the State-imposed levy caps limit us to a half million dollars (\$500,000) in new tax levy. This means that pretty much every year we *start* the budget process with a 1.5 million dollar (\$1,500,000) deficit just to cover the same slate of items we did the year prior.

I've been in leadership for a long time, and we've used a number of strategies to address this deficit:

- Across-the-board cuts
- Pay freezes and asking employees to shoulder more of the cost of their health benefits
- Reducing the size of our workforce
- Energy-conservation measures
- Spending down reserves

All these strategies have worked, but they've taken us about as far as they can. **In preparing the 2017 budget, we will aspire higher.**

We want our lower priority programs to be the funding source for our *most impactful, highest priority initiatives.*

Complaining about State mandates and declaring ourselves victims of a State-imposed system is pretty standard stuff for local officials, but it isn't going to accomplish much and, more than anything, it will contribute to a loss of public confidence in us as leaders. So, for 2017, **we need to FIRST get our priorities straight and THEN align our money with our stated priorities.**

Think about how a family allocates its financial resources...

- If **appeasing the desires of the children today** is the top priority, a family might focus on having TVs in several rooms and splurging on satellite television so each child can watch what he or she wants.
- If the family's focus is more long term, **education** might be the priority and the family might choose not to spend their money on multiple TVs or satellite programming, and instead save and invest their money so that all the children in the house will have a college fund one day.

In a perfect world, every family could have both satellite TV in every room AND a college fund for each child. But when the world is not perfect, **someone needs to be the parent in the room and make the tough (sometimes unpopular) decision, knowing the impact of that single choice will be long standing.**

That's why this year we're committing ourselves to getting our priorities straight in Marathon County, and we have a new methodology and some consulting support to help us make the transition. That may sound easy, but when your "family" is the size of Marathon County, it's not. So stay tuned, and I'll be sure to let you know what we've learned and adjusted in the fall. ■

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Editorial Board: Brad Karger, Andrew Johnson, Chad Dally | [Subscription Info](#)

Please send your comments, questions, or article ideas to: [administrator@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:administrator@co.marathon.wi.us)



**By Jean T. Berger\***

Director / 4-H Youth Development Agent  
Marathon County UW-Extension

## UW-EXTension Is Transforming to Meet the Needs of the nEXT Generation



The news that the University of Wisconsin has experienced significant budget cuts is not new... What you may not be aware of, though, are the consequences of these cuts and how they've served as the impetus for several changes across the state. For Cooperative Extension, the transformation is being called the "nEXT Generation" of UW-Extension. It's designed to meet tomorrow's needs in new ways.

### Q How is the traditional model of Extension programming getting transformed?

Marathon County has been partnering with UW-Extension to provide County educational resources and programs in agriculture, horticulture, family living, community resource and economic development, and 4-H youth development since the 1920s. The subject matter and the faculty who have provided these programs have changed over the decades, but the programming model hasn't changed much at all. The old way of doing things worked fine when the budgets could afford it; for the most part, the educators were hired to be academic generalists working primarily in Marathon County. But, in these times of budget shortfalls and dwindling tax revenues, the model has to change if Cooperative Extension is to remain relevant.

### Q What can we look forward to in the nEXT Generation?

The university will be:

- Keeping a Cooperative Extension office in every county while establishing multi-county areas that consolidate administration (Our local area is planned to include Clark, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties.)
- Structuring county and area jobs to let educators and researchers focus on education and research, rather than administrative tasks
- Respecting different levels of county investment, ensuring that each county receives services proportionate to its funding

### Q What will these changes mean to people living in Marathon County?

Let's look at one of our many program areas and break down what the changes will look like. More than 1,200 youth participate in 4-H throughout the year. Here's how these changes might affect them...

- At the local 4-H Club level, 4-H experiences will remain much the same. 4-H Clubs will convene their monthly meetings with trained adult volunteers. They will continue to do community service and learn about a wide variety of projects, ranging from arts to agriculture.

- If the 4-H'er is involved in county-wide activities, those may look a bit different. Instead of working solely with the Marathon County 4-H educator, he or she will probably be participating in a broader program with broader leadership. Youth from counties across the area could be trained together as camp counselors, 4-H Club officers, and junior leaders. Some of these experiences may be enhanced with additional use of technology to increase access.
- Adult 4-H Club leaders will also benefit from the educator-team approach. Leaders could work with a variety of 4-H youth development educators to be trained in different aspects of their youth-mentoring roles. The Marathon County-based educator will likely provide leadership with the Marathon County 4-H Leader's Federation and the County Fair.
- New opportunities are already being implemented to reach out to a broader youth audience. Wisconsin is exploring the SPIN (*Special Interest*) Club model. These short-term experiences focus on a series of learning activities. SPIN Club activity examples include topics such as science and technology, learning a new language (Hmong or Spanish), photography, and practicing skills needed to enter the job market.

Ultimately, 4-H members will continue to experience the community-based, experiential learning opportunities that have been enjoyed for generations. The 4-H experience will be enhanced now as members benefit from association with a broader base of community members and Cooperative Extension educators.

### Q How are the changes to the traditional model of Extension programming being received?

The future for UW-Extension and the nEXT Generation can be interpreted in many ways. We surely will be operating like other factions of government...economizing and downsizing... in effect, "doing less with less." And, change always brings new opportunities for growth. I believe that the nEXT Generation of UW-Extension will continue to fulfill the purpose to which we commit:

**"We Teach, Learn, Lead and Serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities."**

**UW  
Extension**  
University of Wisconsin-Extension

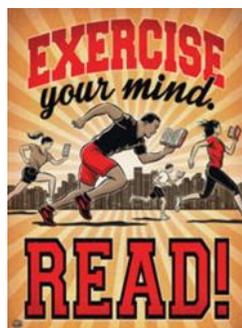
If you have any questions or concerns about the nEXT Generation of UW-Extension, you can contact the reorganization team at [nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:nextgencommunications@ces.uwex.edu). In addition, information about the nEXT Generation project is available online at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/nextgeneration/>. ■

## Exercise Your Mind—AND BODY— with the MCPL Adult Summer Reading Program



**By Chad Dally**  
Library Services  
Marathon County Public Library

We all know the joy of curling up by the fire with a good book as the snow falls gently outside. But winter is over, and the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) is encouraging adults not only to keep their *minds* active over the summer by *reading*, but also to keep their *bodies* active by *exercising*.



We invite adults to stop by any Marathon County Public Library location to pick up our “**Exercise Your Mind and Body**” summer reading program guide (or [download a copy here](#)). When you sign up, you’ll receive a log with boxes to check for both reading and exercising. **Check off a box for every 15 minutes you spend reading, and the same goes for exercising.**

Any book and any kind of exercise will do.

**If you fill up the log, bring it back to any library in Marathon County by August 27 to be rewarded with a PRIZE!** There’s no penalty if you don’t finish the log—only benefits as the *pages turn* and the *calories burn*.

For example, are you taking that steamy romance novel to the beach? Read it for a while and then go swimming to

cool off. Or make progress on both fronts by downloading an audiobook to your mp3 player or smartphone and then listening while you go for a walk or bike ride.

On the back of the log, you’ll find a list of walks, runs, and other sporting events happening in Marathon County over the summer. We’re also including a list of parks and trails throughout the County if you feel like getting outside, and a sample of recent award-winning books and other popular titles if you need some reading suggestions.



In addition to the summer program, a couple of our libraries (Wausau and Hatley) are starting new “**Walk ‘n’ Talk**” **book clubs**, during which participants get together and discuss any

book they’ve recently read while walking outside around the library (weather permitting).

Finally, if you have a teenager at home, we’ve got a **Teen Summer Reading Program** with all sorts of activities for them. In a fun spin on Bingo, teens can “Get in the Game” and mark off a square for reading, exercise, healthy eating, and much more—with FREE BOOKS as a reward!



As much as we love to hear about all the great books (and the stinkers, too) that our patrons read, we also know our Midwest summer doesn’t last long. So keep your mind sharp and your body active!

Visit [www.mcpl.us](http://www.mcpl.us) or stop by any MCPL location for more information on any of our summer programs or events. ■

## Early Childhood Conference

**Saturday, June 4, 7:30 AM–3:30 PM**

[NTC Wausau](#) – Main Building E101/102

Cost: \$32



- Session A:** “*And How Are the Children?*” (Linda DeMoe)
- Session B:** *Art from the Heart* (Mary Olson, Childcaring)
- Session C:** *Discovering Science* (Kathy Kadar, Supporting Families Together Association)
- Session D:** *Discovering Science* – Presented for Hmong-speaking providers (Kao L. Xiong, Childcaring)
- Closing:** “*Technology and Children: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*” (Linda DeMoe)

# Can WIPPS Survive Financially? Important Public Resource Challenged to Align Mission and Funding



By Corina Norrbom, MD

Health Policy Fellow  
Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy & Service  
UW Center for Civic Engagement



WISCONSIN INSTITUTE FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND SERVICE

The Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS) is a statewide nonprofit organization that central Wisconsin is fortunate to have housed right here in Wausau at the UW Center for Civic Engagement on the UW-Marathon County campus. WIPPS is a unit of UW Colleges and UW-Extension, but it operates independently. Therefore, **WIPPS is in a unique position to help the community tap into academic expertise at the "speed of business."**

Strictly nonpartisan, WIPPS helps inform the public about issues of importance, facilitates discussion, provides safe space for tough conversations, and delivers necessary tools and resources to bring about action.

WIPPS seeks to get citizens more enthusiastic, active, and involved in civic life through nonpartisan public deliberative dialogue, public policy lectures, conferences and workshops, public debates and panels, collaborative projects serving the common good, and community volunteer opportunities. Our inclusive and nonpartisan approach ensures that different viewpoints are respected and shared.

**WIPPS is responsive to needs that arise in real world communities.** For example, right here in Marathon County, WIPPS undertook critical work to assist the Marathon County Board to engage the public, build consensus, and move forward with important uniform addressing changes. Developing shared understanding was necessary to diffuse a potentially controversial issue. WIPPS provided resources, tools, and strategies for more inclusive decision making that involved key stakeholders and the public. After the process was complete, participants agreed that the training was not only helpful, but that uniform addressing would not have happened in Marathon County without WIPPS's involvement.

**WIPPS provides opportunities for students to participate in internships and service learning, leadership training, and social entrepreneurship projects.** One example of how WIPPS provides opportunities for future leaders is the facilitation of the Washington Seminar. This three-week summer course (led and taught by UW Colleges faculty in Madison and Washington, DC) provides an up-close and personal view of the workings of government, with access to

congressional and executive leaders, lobbyists, and other policy influencers. Students from all majors can take this hands-on course exploring areas such as the environment, energy, health, the economy, and social justice. Participating in these activities promotes development of community, state, and national leaders, as well as engaged citizens.

WIPPS has been able to work with business, nonprofits, and government to get them the information that they need in a timely manner to enable them to make informed, carefully considered decisions. For example, in response to the recognized need to attract and retain a high-quality workforce and to have the most productive workforce possible—now and

into the future—**WIPPS is working with public and private employers of all sizes to develop a survey/assessment to research what characteristics their employees view as family-friendly or supporting a work-life balance.** This project is intended to move forward the request of Marathon County employers to further understand their employees'

**WIPPS Goals**

- Re-energize Civic Involvement
- Develop Future Leaders
- Educate on Complex Issues
- Serve Community Needs
- Promote Civil Dialogue

needs as parents and what would be of value in terms of a family-friendly working environment to optimize their ability to raise great kids. WIPPS brings resources of the university and connections with other relevant experts, which will help employers get answers to those questions and will take a subsequent supportive role in helping employers take action not only as individual organizations, but also collectively in the community.

WIPPS has recently moved into a cost-recovery funding model. Over the past nine years, the University of Wisconsin System provided the baseline operational funding, but **due to state budget cuts, WIPPS has lost all baseline operational funds.** WIPPS now relies on the generosity of organizations and individuals in communities throughout Wisconsin, grant-funding sources, and contracts for consultative services to remain the same vital resource serving the needs of communities throughout Wisconsin.

WIPPS's mission of "addressing local, state, and national issues by linking public scholarship, civic outreach, and student service to enhance community life throughout Wisconsin" is still the key driver of our programming and activities.

**(continues on p. 5)**

## Can WIPPS Survive?—Continued

Although local foundations have been helpful in trying to support WIPPS's operational expenses over the next year, by necessity, we will be concentrating on areas that best align mission and funding.

- **SPONSORSHIP MODEL** for timely core programming around community needs to keep programs free to the public (e.g., Preparing for the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace: A View from Wisconsin)
- **FEE-FOR-SERVICE** for projects that fulfill community and organizational needs (e.g., feasibility study for The Connections Place: An Active Aging Center)
- **PARTNERSHIP** with other organizations when synergy is possible (e.g., Marathon County Early Years Coalition and the Baby Business event)
- **GRANT WRITING** to fund specific projects that align with our mission (e.g., Voices of Democracy grant from the Brico Foundation)
- **SELECT PROGRAMMING** to raise money (e.g., Peter Yarrow/Dave Obey concert)
- **ENDOWED LECTURE SERIES** (e.g., Veninga Religion and Politics Lecture Series)
- **DONOR CAMPAIGNS** as well as **LOCAL/STATE FOUNDATIONS** to assist with operating expenses

Procuring secure baseline operations funding would allow greater flexibility for WIPPS to continue to provide community services such as coalition building, public debate and dialogue facilitation, action planning, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, internships, and service learning.

The value of providing accurate and unbiased information, promoting civic engagement, and providing a safe space for civil discourse cannot be overstated. There are no other nearby organizations that seek to fill this need. To bring



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about positive community action in the current politically polarized environment, it is of the utmost importance to be able to transcend politics, to find shared value, and to build trust and mutual respect.

**WIPPS helps build a relational, not just informational, culture in which people care about each other's stories, and this helps build understanding that we are all in this together.** The image line of WIPPS is powerful and reflects why we need WIPPS: *Building Community, Strengthening Democracy.*

Civic engagement is at the heart of healthy, vibrant communities. People have to feel as though they are part of a community to care enough to learn about issues or want to get involved in any type of action. When people realize their potential and capacity as agents of change, they are enabled to take initiative to fix problems. Businesses, government, individuals, and organizations can work together to bring about a shared vision. WIPPS has been a backbone and driver for such work by providing safe space, direction for effective processes, and development of leadership capacity.

We are fortunate to have WIPPS in our backyard not only to carry out this work locally in Marathon County, but also to link us with other community, state, and national leaders.

**If you would like information about how you, your business, or your organization can support the work of WIPPS, contact Aaron Zitzelsberger, WIPPS State Director of Development at 715.261.6105 or [aaron.zitzelsberger.uwc.edu](mailto:aaron.zitzelsberger.uwc.edu).** ■

Why are they doing THAT ?!

## A New Look for Sheriff's Department Uniforms



In March, Marathon County officers began transitioning from the traditional brown and tan uniforms to an all-black version. This is a trend that a number of sheriff's offices—both in Wisconsin and nationwide—have undergone in recent years.

One of the primary reasons for this change is that the dark brown color is manufactured with special dyes and has become increasingly difficult to obtain. **The black uniform is more widely available and will be less expensive to maintain over time.**

**This change will come at NO COST to the taxpayers of Marathon County.** It will be entirely funded by seized drug money. ■

## Marathon County Supports Monk Botanical Gardens

The Monk Botanical Gardens is a wonderful community resource and destination that makes Marathon County a more attractive place in which to live. It lies within a 20-acre parcel in the City of Wausau being developed as a public, botanical garden that will include a kitchen facility, a variety of gardens, walking trails, and refecton areas. It's already a treasure, with its Wildflower Woods, Memory Garden, and spectacular Treehouse in the Piney Woods. As the vision of the facility is realized, it's sure to become a magnificent draw for schools, families, residents, and tourists.



The Monk Gardens is a non-profit entity supported by many groups and individual donors. **Marathon County recently supported the continued development of the gardens with a \$250,000 grant from the Environmental Impact Fund.** These dollars will be used to construct bathroom facilities, a demonstration kitchen, and more gardens. These will allow for hands-on demonstration of gardening principles for growing, preparing, and preserving vegetables, herbs, and fruit.

The Marathon County Library is also working with Monk Botanical Gardens to support their common educational initiatives—including use of the new kitchen facility this summer to share techniques for cooking with herbs.

The library's first collaboration with Monk ("Alien Species Invade the Library!") was a two-part series in 2015 that introduced K-6 children to invasive plant species and included hands-on learning about planting vegetable seedlings. Also in 2015, Monk Gardens staff taught adults about gardening in small containers, with programs held at both MCPL and at Monk Gardens.



The new Monk Botanical Gardens Kitchen Pavilion will host cooking programs in cooperation with the Marathon County Public Library

### The Library is stepping up its collaboration with Monk Gardens with several programs for 2016...



[Monk Botanical Gardens](#) co-sponsored a program in April at the Wausau branch of MCPL about butterfly science, and next we're working together on **a two-part program for adults about herb gardening.**

We'll have a couple of summer sessions each for the following topics:

- **June 15-16** ([MCPL-Wausau](#)): **Learn how to GROW herbs in small containers.**
- **June 25** ([Monk Gardens Kitchen Pavilion](#)): **Learn how to COOK with the herbs you've grown!**



The biggest event for summer will be **StoryWalk®**. The theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read."

- **July 2-14** ([Monk Botanical Gardens](#)): Children and their parents can take a **StoryWalk®** through the beautiful nature trails, reading eight different books along the way.
- **July 9-10** ([Monk Botanical Gardens](#)): During **StoryWalk® Weekend** at Monk Gardens, there will be activities related to each of the eight book themes, special exhibitors, a hands-on art activity (provided by [Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum](#)) in the Memory Plaza, and much more!

**Admission is FREE.** Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

### Art, books, nature, exercise... What's not to LOVE?

The County is thankful to work with such a dedicated, creative staff at Monk Botanical Gardens, and we look forward to more partnerships in the future!

If you haven't visited the gardens yet, you need to. Visit the [Monk Botanical Gardens website](#) for their hours, upcoming programming, and ways you can support this beautiful local garden sanctuary. ■





**By Michael Lotter**

Marathon County Facilities  
and Capital Management Director



## TOP 10 Capital Projects of Marathon County for 2016

Marathon County typically invests about \$5 million each year in capital projects. We have a well-defined request and evaluation process in place to determine priorities. In the past, the list was dominated by roof replacements, parking lot re-pavings, and heating and cooling system replacements. In recent years, that has changed and the largest expenditures now involve software purchases. Again this year, information technology needs head the list as the top two most expensive capital projects.

# 1

### **Law Enforcement Records System Purchase (Sherriff's Dept.) — \$1,680,000**

- **What?** Purchase of a law enforcement system including dispatch, mobile, records management, jail, and civil process
- **Why?** To provide a reliable, multi-agency records system that allows for efficient sharing of information

# 2

### **Land Records Replacement (Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Dept.) — \$565,000**

- **What?** Replacement of a 22-year-old in-house-developed land records management computer system (software and hardware)
- **Why?** To modernize the land records system that serves Marathon County

# 3

### **County Road F Bridge at Dill Creek Reconstruction (Highway Dept.) — \$400,000**

- **What?** Reconstruction of bridge
- **Why?** To address the 20-ton limit restriction of current bridge structure and to upgrade weight limit loading to 50 tons.

# 4

### **Chiller Replacement at UW-Marathon County — \$300,700**

- **What?** Planned upgrade of aging units that have obsolete electronic controls
- **Why?** To preemptively replace aged units before they fail and cause an emergency replacement

# 5

### **Marathon Park Ice Arena Upgrade — \$275,000**

- **What?** Replacement of aging components of the refrigeration system, installation of interior ceiling panels, interior painting, and installation of metal siding at deteriorating block wall
- **Why?** To ensure functionality of the ice arena refrigeration system and to make aesthetic improvements

# 6

### **Card Access Replacement — \$165,000**

- **What?** Replacement of existing aging system
- **Why?** To bring the system up to date and allow for expansion and growth as the system is beginning to fail

# 7

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office Remodel — \$80,000**

- **What?** Renovation and remodel of existing USDA facility
- **Why?** To move IT server to a secure location and change entrances and offices for better traffic ability

# 8

### **Replace Tract Index System (Register of Deeds) — \$75,000**

- **What?** Software purchase for indexing and managing recorded documents
- **Why?** To obtain a tract index that utilizes new technologies and provides our customers with easy-to-use access to our records

# 9

### **Preliminary Design and Budget Estimate for NCHC Therapy Pool — \$45,000**

- **What?** Development of a preliminary design and budget estimate for the North Central Health Care (NCHC) therapy pool
- **Why?** To provide a reliable budget estimate based on the criteria identified in the pool study and the option chosen by the Health and Human Services Committee

# 10

### **Highway Facility Study — \$25,000**

- **What?** Space Needs Study of existing facility
- **Why?** To identify the space needs of the department in its current figuration and as a future master plan

## The "Greening" of Lake Wausau Too Much Phosphorus!



By Andrew Johnson

Environmental Resources  
Coordinator  
Conservation, Planning  
& Zoning Department



If you live in or visit the Wausau area, you have likely had a chance to enjoy Lake Wausau. The lake is actually a flowage about 1,900 acres in size created by the damming of the Wisconsin River, Eau Claire River, and Big Rib River. Although it's a great recreational resource, the greening of the water in summer creates a real challenge.

**Why does Lake Wausau's water turn green?  
The answer is: Too much phosphorus.**



Phosphorus is an essential plant nutrient that occurs naturally, mainly as phosphate. Phosphorus is a critical plant nutrient used by agriculture and food production (industries that support the economic well-being of rural Marathon County). However, when excessive phosphorus enters our streams and lakes, these waters experience significant algae blooms. Too much algae really limits the enjoyment and aesthetics of the water.

**The majority of the excess phosphorus entering our lakes and streams comes from "runoff" pollution.**

Such pollution occurs when heavy rains and melting snow wash over farm fields and feedlots and carry fertilizer, manure, and soil into lakes and streams, or carry phosphorus-containing contaminants from urban streets and parking lots.

### Community Solutions: Villages of Edgar and Marathon City

**In the watersheds adjacent to the Villages of Edgar and Marathon City, the private and public stakeholders are trying a new solution to reduce phosphorus from entering the river.** Instead of responding to discharge rules set by the DNR and EPA with expensive municipal treatment facility upgrades, the villages are teaming up with Marathon County and the Farm Bureau to support the implementation of conservation practices on community farms. If successful, the villages and their residents will avoid a major expense, farmers will improve their farm practices and profitability, and the waters leading to Lake Wausau will be cleaner. ■

## Eastbay Sports Complex A One-of-a-Kind Marketing Opportunity



By Daniel G. Fiorenza

Operations Superintendent  
Maintenance & Development  
Wausau & Marathon County Parks,  
Recreation, & Forestry Department

Over a year ago, we announced the availability of 15 field sponsorships at the brand-new Eastbay Sports Complex. Now, **only 3 opportunities remain...**

If you played conservative until you got a sense of the game, now's the moment to open up and GO FOR IT because **you're still in position to SCORE BIG**. Plus, now we've got the proven performance and stats you were waiting for...

- **First-season attendance to the Eastbay sports complex was over 124,000 visitors.** Meaning, when you sponsor a field, your company will be recognized by *tens of thousands of people every year*. What's more, you'll be supporting healthy Marathon County activities.
- The complex has already demonstrated that it's a big-crowd, high-energy marketing environment with major tournaments. **In its first-year, the complex drew over 4,000 people at a time into the facilities.** As a field sponsor, your company taps into the excitement and fan enthusiasm that make sporting events *the hottest marketing venue* in the world.
- At the end of our first season, the word was in—coaches, players, and fans from across the state **ranked the Eastbay Sports Complex as the BEST natural turf fields in Wisconsin.** Sponsoring a top-notch field associates your company with *quality*. It's a venue you'll be proud to be seen supporting.

Nothing delivers the *coveted family market* more precisely than sponsoring a field. Even more powerful—nothing generates more **positive goodwill with families** like supporting the activities they value for their children.

**There are still GREAT field positions available.**

Click here for more [info about Field Sponsorships](#).

### Questions?

Contact Dan Fiorenza, Wausau & Marathon County Parks,  
Recreation, & Forestry, at 715.261.1576 or  
[dan.fiorenza@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:dan.fiorenza@co.marathon.wi.us).

## Paws Enforcing Laws



**K-9 Fundraiser**  
(\$15 each)

Our fine and furry co-workers in the Sheriff's Department—Leo, Radar, and Csibi—are working to raise money for food and shelter for themselves. **Our K-9 Unit is self-supporting through donations from the many people who appreciate the dogs' service to Marathon County.**

In addition, **the Sheriff's Department plans to add a fourth dog to the unit in November 2016.**

Several fundraising programs are underway...

The first fundraiser is the **stuffed-animal lookalikes** of the Sheriff's Department K-9 team. You can purchase a stuffed Belgian Malinois for \$15 at the Sheriff's Office administration window (on the first floor of the Marathon County Courthouse) or by emailing Deputy/Handler Dan D'Acquisto at [Daniel.d'Acquisto@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:Daniel.d'Acquisto@co.marathon.wi.us).

Another K-9 Unit fundraiser being planned is a summer golf outing.

### 4-Person Golf Scramble (K-9 Unit Fundraiser)

**Saturday, July 9** at [Greenwood Hills Country Club](#)

Registration begins at 1 p.m.; shotgun start at 2 p.m. Cost is \$100 per golfer, \$400 per team. Cost includes green fees, golf cart, prizes, and dinner. Registration form is at [www.facebook.com/PawsEnforcingLaws](http://www.facebook.com/PawsEnforcingLaws) or contact Dan Acquisto at [Daniel.d'Acquisto@co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:Daniel.d'Acquisto@co.marathon.wi.us).

The dogs are assigned to Sheriff's Department deputies/handlers. The dogs stay in the deputies' homes when "off duty." Each dog costs approximately \$25,000 over the course of seven years. This includes purchasing the dog from a specialized breeder, extensive training of the K-9s and the handlers in narcotic detection and other security activities, outfitting patrol units, veterinary care, food, and supplies. ■

## Lance Leonhard Selected to Fill Deputy County Administrator Position

Lance Leonhard will have a new job with Marathon County beginning July 18. He was selected to fill the Deputy County Administrator position, replacing **Deb Hager**, who is retiring.

Lance is an attorney and is currently employed by the Marathon County Corporation Counsel's Office. His duties in that position involve a caseload of primarily child welfare cases. Previously Lance worked in the Marathon County District Attorney's Office as a prosecutor specializing in drug cases.



**Lance Leonhard to become  
Deputy County Administrator  
July 18**

During the public announcement of his appointment, Lance thanked Judge **Jill Falstad** and Corporation Counsel **Scott Corbett** for supporting his early career and said that he looked forward to working with **Brad Karger**, County Administrator, and **Kurt Gibbs**, County Board Chair, in providing leadership to Marathon County Government.

In 2015, the County created a [WorkStories video of Lance Leonhard](#) in which he explained the lessons he learned from his grandfather. We invite you to view the brief video clip again to see the personal and professional qualities that have inspired the County's confidence in Lance. ■

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR... Bluegill Bay County Park Groundbreaking

The Rotary Club of Wausau will be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the **restoration of the fishing pond at Bluegill Bay County Park.**



**County Administrator  
Brad Karger's grandson,  
Braden Myska,  
fishing at Bluegill Bay**

**Date:** Monday, June 20

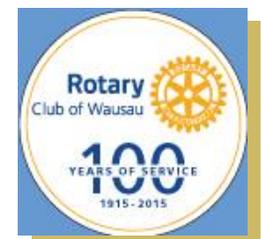
**Time:** 12 Noon to 1 PM

**Place:** Bluegill Bay County Park in Rib Mountain

The project represents a \$400,000 community investment. The funding for the project came from many sources, with the **BA and Esther Greenheck Foundation** and **Marathon County's Environmental Impact Fund** being two of the top contributors.

The idea is to restore the pond as a year-round location for youth fishing. The restoration will include dredging a portion of the pond to increase its depth, reduce temperatures, and increase the flow of groundwater into the pond.

**The Rotary Club** provided leadership for the project as part of its 100-year anniversary celebration. ■





## Maintaining Your “Brain Health”

**By Joan Theurer**, Health Officer  
Marathon County Health Department

**And Jennifer Cummings**, Director of Aging and Wellness  
Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin



On occasion, most of us have forgotten someone’s name, where we parked our car, or something we were supposed to pick up at the store. While it’s frustrating when this happens, it’s considered perfectly normal. But **if you experience forgetfulness regularly and you struggle to carry out everyday activities—like recognizing family and friends, preparing a meal, or managing money—it could be that you have dementia.**

*Dementia* is a term used to describe symptoms of a group of conditions: *a decline in memory, judgment, language, and other thinking skills impacting a person’s ability to navigate everyday activities.* Alzheimer’s disease is the most common type of dementia, accounting for 60–80%.

While it’s true that dementia is associated with aging, the World Health Organization has estimated: “Between 2 and 10% of all cases of dementia start *before* the age of 65.” (emphasis added)

There are several chronic conditions that may increase your risk of developing dementia. These include:

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Uncontrolled High Blood Pressure

### What can you do to maintain your “brain health” and keep dementia at bay?

A healthy lifestyle can reduce some risk for dementia and help you age better overall. It’s recommended that you adopt lifelong healthy habits such as:

- Eat healthy food
- Be physically active
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Stop smoking, if you smoke
- Drink alcohol safely, at low risk
- Check and maintain a healthy blood pressure
- Get a good night of sleep (7–8 hours per night)
- Keep social connections—Engage in conversations
- Use your brain—Learn new things, read, do crossword puzzles



Healthy lifestyle habits can be started at any age. Choose one or more new habits you can implement TODAY to keep your brain healthy!

### What is being done in our local community to help individuals with dementia live a more meaningful life?

With the Baby Boom generation aging, the number of people affected with dementia is expected to greatly increase. In anticipation of the strain on families, the long-term-care system, and the economy, Wisconsin (like many other states across the nation) is beginning to create **dementia-friendly communities.**

*(continues on p. 11)*

## How Do You Expect to Be Treated by Government Employees?

When you interact with an employee of Marathon County's Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) Department, all of our behavior will be **honest, kind, and respectful**. It is our promise, and we fully intend to keep it!



This wasn't always the case, though. In 2012, we faced the reality that many of our relationships with town officials and residents were poor and unproductive—so much so that two Towns (Frankfurt and Halsey) ran referendum questions asking voters if they would like withdraw from County zoning, and each passed by convincing margins. Additionally, the County Administrator was getting calls from residents and Town officials complaining about zoning enforcement involving such things as the size of a wood deck added to a family home or a shed for storing the lawn mower and snow blower that was determined to be too close to a property line. In part, the callers complained about the zoning code, but they also discussed the way they felt they had been treated by a bureaucracy that seemed harsh and uncaring. The problems were widespread, but were particularly acute in the zoning services area.

County employees were embarrassed by reports that their customers felt that they were arrogant and condescending. After some initial defensiveness, we were open to change.

Faced with a directive from County Administration to improve customer relationships—and with the support of a talented team of consultants—CPZ employees began doing some serious soul searching. Honest, Kind, and Respectful (HKR) was adopted by each employee as the standard for every customer interaction.

We each individually committed ourselves to the new expectations. To monitor progress, we re-surveyed town officials and customers and found that we have dramatically improved how people feel they are being treated now. We learned from our experience and we changed the way we think about ourselves as government employees and you as the customer of our services.

### Key Changes after Implementing HKR

- **30% increase** in customers reporting they were very satisfied when interacting with CPZ staff
- **25% reduction** in feeling neutral and not satisfied with their interactions with CPZ staff

The next time you communicate with a representative of CPZ, you can expect that we will be:

- **Honest**
- **Kind**
- **Respectful**

You may not get everything you want from us, because we still have a job to do, but you will know that we value you as a customer and we are doing what we can to help you. ■

## Maintaining Your "Brain Health"

—Continued

**The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin (ADRC-CW) is leading efforts to build "dementia-friendly communities" here in Marathon County.** Specific initiatives underway include:

- **OFFERING MEMORY SCREENS**—Resource Specialists have been trained to provide memory screens by appointment or on a walk-in basis. The screen is simple, and those who have completed it have verbalized having "peace of mind" and are happy to have a baseline from which to measure from in the future. The ADRC-CW collaborates with medical providers to inform them of the service and has developed tools to communicate the results of the cognitive screens with them, with consumers, and/or with family members, depending on the consumer's preference. For more information on memory screens, call 715-261-6070 or stop at the Wausau ADRC-CW office at 1000 Lake View Drive.



- **TRAINING AREA BUSINESSES HOW TO BE "DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY"**—A workgroup is in the process of developing a training program to provide information and tools to area businesses to help them support and promote the development "dementia-friendly communities" in Central Wisconsin. For individuals and businesses interested in learning more about how to be more dementia friendly, please call Jennifer Cummings, RN, Director of Aging and Wellness, at 715-424-8460 or visit [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm).
- **PARTNERING WITH THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATION**—To move forward in building "dementia-friendly communities," there needs to be a clear understanding of what dementia is. Educational programs offered in the community enable the ADRC-CW to connect individuals and families to resources.

**For more information on how YOU can get involved with building dementia-friendly communities** here in Marathon County (as an individual, family, community group, or business), please visit [www.brainhealth.gov](http://www.brainhealth.gov) and [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/index.htm). ■

# Your Newly Elected Marathon County Board Members



**Front Row:** David Nutting, Kathy Kainz-Assistant County Clerk, Nan Kottke-County Clerk, Kurt Gibbs-County Board Chair, Brad Karger-County Administrator, Scott Corbett-Corporation Counsel, Jean Maszk, Sandy Cihlar  
**Second Row:** E.J. Stark, Sara Guild, Karen Kellbach, Dave Wysong, Tim Buttke, Orval Quamme, Yee Leng Xiong  
**Third Row:** Alan Chrisensen, Allen Opall, Craig McEwen, Chris Voll, Rick Seefeldt, Bill Miller  
**Fourth Row:** Tom Seubert, Robert Wegner, Allen Drabek, John Durham, Maynard Tremelling, John Robinson, Lee Peek-County Board Vice-chair, Gary Beastron  
**Fifth Row:** Jim Schaefer, Jack Hoogendyk, Jacob Langenhahn, Jeff Zriny, Arnold Schlei  
**Not Pictured:** Sherry Abitz, Matt Bootz, Randy Fifrick, Richard Gumz, Kurt Kluck, Joel Lewis, Katie Rosenberg, James Seefeldt



## Yee Leng Xiong Has a Passion for Service

**Yee Leng Xiong** is a member of the D.C. Everest Board of Education, a member of the Marathon County Board, and he is employed full-time by the Women's Community. All this and he just turned 22!

But life wasn't always easy for Yee Leng. When he was in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, he was extremely quiet and timid. He would answer direct questions, but any conversation at school was a struggle. Things weren't great in his family life, and he wasn't engaged in school. Many people struggle with self-confidence in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade; it was particularly hard for Yee Leng.

Things started to turn around in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. With encouragement, Yee Leng got involved in school and volunteer activities and started to come out of his shell. He developed more friendships, self-confidence, and a more hopeful view of the future.

After graduation, Yee Leng revitalized a youth group called H.M.O.N.G. (Help Make Our Next Generation) and he currently serves as the group advisor. The mission of the group is to keep kids out of trouble through community service and public engagement.

Yee Leng plans on obtaining a Master's degree in Public Administration and seeking employment as a County Administrator or a director of a non-profit agency. He wants to live a life of meaning and improve the lives of others. ■



Stay "in the know" with...

## Wisconsin Central Time NEWS

As part of our goal to be transparent and accountable to you—the taxpayer—this eNewsletter, **Wisconsin Central Time NEWS**, is a means for Marathon County leadership to communicate what County officials are doing to make Marathon County a great place to **work, play, and live**.

Seasonally (approximately quarterly), we bring you insightful stories and timely information about the issues being discussed and the goals being achieved by Marathon County Government.

In addition, it's our hope share with you the network of dedicated people serving our community: Thoughtful, reflective, brave, and compassionate individuals motivated to improve the human condition. Public servants facing challenges as best they can. Real people stepping in—and stepping up—to learn and work to make a difference right here in Marathon County.

**If you or anyone you know would like to receive this eNewsletter,** we invite you to [sign up here](#).

**County Board meetings** are open to the public and typically take place in the Assembly Room of the Courthouse. The Board meets twice a month, with the *informational meeting* on a Thursday evening and the *voting meeting* on a Tuesday afternoon.



**County Board meetings are video-recorded.**

Meeting agendas, details, and video links can be found on the County's website: [www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)