



Wisconsin Central Time NEWS

A seasonal Marathon County eNewsletter

Volume 3, Suppl. 1
2016
End-of-Year
Special Edition

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

Marathon County Forests Open for Hunting



By Tom Lovlien
Marathon County Forest Administrator
Marathon County Parks, Recreation,
& Forestry Department



Yes, we manage the Marathon County Forest to supply timber products to an important local industry. But the County Forest also has nearly 30,000 acres of land open to the public, which provide recreation opportunities, wildlife habitats, watershed protection, and amazing hunting grounds.

Forest and wildlife management activities on County Forest lands have resulted in excellent populations of game and non-game wildlife. In fact, **nearly all of Wisconsin's game animals can be found in the County Forest.** Our efforts have created some of the finest grouse and woodcock habitats in Wisconsin, bringing hunters to the County Forest each fall to seek out these crafty birds.

County Forest lands are also popular for deer hunters, as they provide food and cover for targeted prey. The numerous wetlands and flowages throughout the County Forest also provide habitat for waterfowl, creating excellent hunting opportunities for ducks and Canadian geese.

It's important to note: **Hunting and trapping are strictly prohibited in all Marathon County and City of Wausau parks. However, all County Forest lands are open for public hunting,** provided hunters follow all state rules relative to seasons, blinds, and being courteous to others who are using the forest.

Marathon County has nine [County Forest units](#) offering a host of hunting opportunities. Maps and details can be found on [our department's webpage](#). We invite you to [contact the DNR](#) for additional public hunting grounds. ■



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New Format for WI Central Time NEWS...

Starting next year, instead of sending you an eNewsletter PDF file four times a year, our Editorial Board will be posting Marathon County-related updates online throughout the year. This new format will allow us to connect with you more frequently. Plus, you'll be able to enjoy County stories and news on *any device*—wherever you have an internet or mobile connection. This change will be WIN-WIN. So stay tuned, and thanks for reading! ■

Editorial Board: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Andrew Johnson, Chad Dally, Katie Rosenberg

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By Katie Rosenberg
County Board Supervisor
District No. 1

Election Night 2016: Inside the Marathon County Clerk's Office



Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. Here in Marathon County, we do a great job of ensuring that our elections are both efficient and fair. According to Marathon County Administrator Brad Karger, while he did field a concern this year about the fairness of the Electoral College, in his 28 years of working here, he has never had a citizen express concern that an election was "rigged."

Nan Kottke has been the Marathon County Clerk for the last two decades. First elected in 1996, she's overseen five presidential elections, six gubernatorial elections, and dozens of state and local elections. She's Marathon County's "elections expert," and I was lucky enough to get an inside view of Election Night from her office...



Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk

I arrived at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, expecting a flurry of activity, but instead I found Nan, her office staff, and a handful of other County employees patiently waiting for the votes. That gave me a little time to listen in...

"You know, when you hold that ballot in your hand, you have no idea what it takes to get there," said Anne Pecha as she thought back on the months of preparation it took to get to Election Night.

The Clerk's Office started work on the 2016 General Election in March, when they first had to provide official notice to the newspaper. That was quickly followed by nomination papers, primary elections, and then preparing the equipment, training, and ballots to the **108 reporting units in the 62 municipalities that make up Marathon County.**

Nan frequently refers to the capability and composure of the municipal clerks and poll workers who are the front lines of every election season: *"They have a thankless job!"* she

noted, explaining how some voters take out their Election Day anxiety on the people helping out at the polling sites.

Just after 8:00 p.m., the jarring, discordant sounds of phones filled the Clerk's Office. The municipalities were calling to make sure their votes had uploaded properly. *"How many provisionals?"* one Clerk's Office employee asked a caller. *"How many electors?"* another asked. *"We're open until we close!"* Nan announced to another caller.

At 9:15 p.m., the first batch of votes were uploaded to the public-facing website, which represented about 90% of votes cast in Marathon County. But there was hitch: **Some of Wausau's ballots weren't uploading.** Nan didn't waste any time and headed down the street to the Wausau Clerk's Office to help. *"It's just taking a while. The machines take pictures of every single ballot, so it takes time to upload,"* Nan assured everyone after she returned. *"The nightmare scenario? That would be equipment*

failure," said Nan. Fortunately, the only issues our Marathon County Clerk saw during the election were a few ballot jams that were quickly fixed and a minor waiting game with some of the Wausau election ballots.

Just before 11:00 p.m., the rest of Wausau's votes uploaded to the public-facing website, and the Clerk's Office cleared out just before midnight.

On Wednesday, November 9, when everyone returned to work, they began work on the April 2017 elections and canvassing Marathon County for official 2016 results. There is always another election on the horizon that requires preparation and follow-through.

The County Clerk's Office coordinates an election team that includes the municipalities, technology vendors, information technology professionals, poll workers, and election officials. *"It all works together or it doesn't work at all,"* said Nan. This particular night, like all others that preceded it, there were challenges but they were addressed, and the election was conducted fairly and efficiently. ■

Humane Society of Marathon County to the Rescue!



By Mary Kirlin
Executive Director
Humane Society of Marathon County



People often think the Humane Society of Marathon County (HSMC) is a part of the Marathon County government. But it's not. We are a nonprofit entity whose mission is to inspire and engage the community to end animal suffering and commit to responsible pet ownership. We do this by providing shelter for lost and surrendered pets and providing rabies quarantine needs as determined by the County Health Department.

Other services you may not know that we provide include:

- Loaning of crates for housebreaking or traps for catching problem cats and dogs
- Advice with pet issues (litter box problems, destructive chewing, separation anxiety, etc.)
- 30 days of free pet sheltering for owners residing at The Women's Community
- Provision of non-staple shelter supplies (e.g., cat litter and pet foods) to The Neighbors' Place for those in need
- Community-service opportunities for area business and community/student groups, as well as those with court-ordered community service needs
- A mobile sterilization clinic several days a month to provide access to low-cost spays, neuters, and vaccinations to our area
- Affordable microchipping

In addition, **in 2016, HSMC hosted two free rabies vaccination and micro-chip clinics.** SAFER/Rib Mountain was our first in January, with 50 microchips and 32 rabies vaccinations done. In March, Kronenwetter Fire Department hosted HSMC, with 86 microchips and 108 rabies vaccinations done. We recently emailed other County fire stations asking them to host similar clinics in their area this fall and in early 2017. Town clerks are also invited to be on hand for licensing. The more animals microchipped and vaccinated, the safer it is for the public and the easier it is to reunite a lost pet with an owner!

In other HSMC news, **we recently completed the surrender and removal of 38 of 43 dogs from a rural resident.** After ignoring prior law enforcement contact, the number of animals continued growing. Neighbors asked HSMC to visit the residence, and in the end, HSMC worked with six other shelters and rescues to take in 38 of the 43 dogs. We also reached an agreement with the owner to sterilize and vet his few remaining dogs if he would work with us. Shelters report that the dogs are doing well, and the owner acknowledged that life for him and his remaining dogs is much less stressful, and he appreciated our assistance.

Free-roaming cats continue to be a concern for many Marathon County residents. HSMC currently contracts with the following municipalities for their stray cats and other non-dog strays: Village of Kronenwetter, Town of Rib Mountain, Village of Rothschild, Town of Stettin, City of Wausau, Everest Metro Area (Village of Weston, Town of Weston, and City of Schofield). Residents outside these areas should contact their township/municipality officials to determine what arrangements are in place.

Community Cat Action Team (CCAT) is a relatively new volunteer group to help citizens with information and assistance on their TNR (Trap Neuter Release) program. They can be contacted at 715-348-9162, emailed at ccatmarathoncounty@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.ccatmarathoncounty.org. CCAT actively works with Wausau's Animal Control Program to address stray cats in the City of Wausau.

HSMC is the designated impound facility for Marathon County's lost dogs and other stray pets from contracted areas. The [HSMC website](#) provides numerous resources for pet owners,

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Ashley Jones (HSMC staff person)
with two cats available for adoption

HSMC to the Rescue!

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including an inventory of animals that have come in as strays and those that are available for adoption. All lost dogs that come through our doors are also posted on our Facebook page, which has a following of 13.2K viewers. **If you lose an animal, please check with us at www.catsndogs.org or call us at 715-845-2810.**

To reclaim your lost pet, you will be required to comply with Wisconsin State Statute 173.23 and municipality contracts:

- Provide a current rabies vaccination certificate. If not current, you must purchase a prepaid vaccination from a licensed veterinarian.
- Provide a current dog/cat license as required by your municipality. You cannot purchase a license without evidence of a rabies vaccination or prepaid vaccination.
- Provide your driver's license or WI photo ID for identification.
- Pay in full the reclaim fee of \$20 for the first day and \$10 for each additional day your pet was held at HSMC. Additional fees may apply if other veterinary expenses were incurred for your pet.
- While at HSMC, lost animals receive necessary care and attention for the safety, health, and well-being of your lost animal and all other animals at the shelter.

If you'd like to help with the work that the Humane Society of Marathon County does, consider volunteering or working there. **HSMC currently has a part-time opening for a shelter assistant**, with the potential for the position to grow to full-time. [Visit the HSMC's website](#) for details or to apply for this position. ■



Ensure Gun Safety This Fall Practice at Mosinee Shooting Range



By Tom Lovlien

Marathon County Forest Administrator
Marathon County Parks, Recreation,
& Forestry Department



Before heading into the fields and woods this fall, hunters should get reacquainted with their weapons so they can be sure to hit what they aim at and enjoy a safe and successful hunt.

If you'd like to get in some target practice to ensure everything's in good working order, **we have what is arguably the best outdoor shooting range in the state in the [Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park](#).**

The range has facilities for rifle, shotgun, pistol, and archery. Individuals can shoot at their own pace, as the range has a unique design that allows shooters to safely mount and retrieve their targets without disturbing other shooters.



Daily fees are \$3 for ages 12+ and free for those under 12. Annual passes are \$30. Adult supervision is required for shooters under 14.

Days and hours vary for the range, which opens each year in May and closes in mid-November. The range is open every day this year from November 1-18.

Questions? Contact Jon Daniels at the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department at 715-261-1550 or [visit our website for details](#). ■



Little Kids – Big Results

Marathon County Is Investing in Young Children via “Start Right” Program



By Eileen Eckardt, RN, BSN

Director of Family Health & Communicable Disease
Marathon County Health Department

And by Erica Huffman, CSW, MS, LPC

Prevention & CAC Manager
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin—Community Services



Being a parent can be hard on the best of days. But some parents in our community are faced with additional obstacles—such as poverty, drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness, or other challenges—that may interfere with raising healthy, school-ready kids.

Research tells us that creating a nurturing and stable environment during the first years of a child’s life is critically important for the healthy development of children’s emotions and trust. When children don’t get what they need early on, the costs are high to these kids and their families, certainly, but also to our communities.

How so? The first few years of a child’s life are a time during which there is the greatest risk of abuse or neglect. In fact, studies show that **47% of child abuse cases occur within the first five years of a child’s life.**¹

This is significant because the brain growth from birth to age five has a lifelong impact on areas such as social and emotional development, physical health, and school readiness. **The cost of one non-fatal victim of child abuse and neglect due to adverse health, social, and economic consequences is estimated to be over \$210,000.** With millions of children abused or neglected each year in the United States, that leads to a \$124 billion total lifetime economic burden of child maltreatment.²

Marathon County is no different...

We know that families right here in our community face similar struggles that put children at risk for child abuse and neglect.

So how do we reduce child maltreatment and improve outcomes for kids?

Research tells us that families are strengthened and children are safer by providing coaching and family support through home-visiting programs. **A good home-visiting program can cut the number of child abuse cases by half** and continually demonstrate effectiveness in improving family self-sufficiency, child and maternal health, and school readiness.³

Marathon County’s Start Right program provides coaching, education, and resources to help families in Marathon County raise healthy, school-ready kids. This unique home-visiting program is a partnership between Marathon County Health Department and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin—Community Services.



From pregnancy to age 5, through personal home visits to classes at the Family Resource Center, **Start Right provides the individualized supports that parents need to become their child’s first teachers.** Specially trained public health nurses and parent educators meet with families to form relationships, provide education on creating a safe and stimulating environment for children, and link them to needed

resources. The Start Right program recognizes that every family is different and needs individualized supports and resources to successfully parent their children and build a stable future for their family. The services this program provides help vulnerable families become self-sufficient and find healthy solutions to meet their needs.

Start Right has a long history of positive benefits from the community’s \$1.7 million investment.

For example, in 2015⁴:

- 97% of children were on schedule for their well-child exams.
- 96% of homes with a documented safety hazard decreased existing safety concerns.
- 88% of infants slept in a safe sleep environment.
- 86% of children with a potential developmental delay received needed services.
- 81% had a reproductive life plan.
- 68% of women initiated breastfeeding.
- 68% of parents with AOD, domestic violence, or mental health concerns received needed services.

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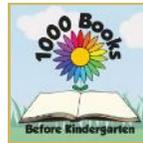
MCPL's "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" Program



By Chad Dally
Library Specialist
Marathon County Public Library



The Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) is challenging parents to read more books with their children. Our "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" initiative is meant to introduce children to a wide range of literature, encourage families to spend quality time together, and promote pre-literacy and learning so children enter school ready to read, listen, and learn. Although 1,000 books may sound like a huge number, consider this...



If you read only one children's book a day
or, as we often hear from parents,
the *same* favorite bedtime story *night after night*—
you could reach 1,000 books in less than 3 years.
Ten books per week? Less than 2 years!

How to participate: Register in person at any [MCPL location](#) to receive fun worksheets to record your family's reading progress. Incentives include stickers, books, and book bags. Plus, we'll give you tips and suggestions to keep you on track. And, of course, we can't let you run out of books, so check out our [1,000 Books program webpage](#) for hundreds of book suggestions. Feel free to [contact us](#) for more information on this or any other library program.

MCPL's "100 Books Before College" Program

Starting in 2017, the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) will provide teens with an opportunity to expand their literary horizons before graduation with our "100 Books Before College" program. We're putting together a list of some of the best-known and critically acclaimed works of literature—some of which may end up being assigned reading anyway—and other fiction and nonfiction that stands on its own outside of a classroom. Unlike our kindergarten program, there's no central, nationwide initiative that encourages teens to read 100 books, so our Young Adult librarian will curate a list of books she feels are important for teen minds to consume. Over the next couple of months, we'll be creating a registration system and landing page on the library's website.

Can't wait until the new year? Let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with some suggestions. And, while we think reading is its own reward, incentives are nice. So, with both programs, we'll be providing prizes as the pages turn and the number of books read accumulates.

Happy reading! ■

Little Kids — Big Results

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Marathon County's Start Right program helps babies *start right* by delivering services with proven benefits for our families and our community.



Besides the multitude of social and health benefits, home-visiting programs make great economic sense, too:

"Investments in high-quality early childhood programs, particularly those targeted to children at risk, are not just a virtuous service, but can yield a large return for those paying the bill. Study after study has proved that such programs, coupled with training for parents, result not only in economic gains for the children as they grow up, but sizable savings on taxes. For example, graduates from these preschool programs are less likely to need special education, end up being arrested fewer times and spend less time in prison (which means fewer crime victims), require fewer social services, are healthier and wind up paying more in taxes." [emphasis added]

— Rob Grunewald & Arthur J. Rolnick
As cited in "An Early Childhood Investment with a High Public Return,"
The Regional Economist, July 2010

Children who are supported during the early years are safer, healthier, and more prepared to learn and grow, setting the groundwork for becoming successful adults. [Click here](#) to read more about Marathon County's Start Right program and the services offered.

Smart investments in little kids truly do reap BIG rewards for our community. ■

¹ CDC Child Maltreatment Facts 2014 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/childmaltreatment-facts-at-a-glance.pdf>

² *The Economic Burden of Child Maltreatment in the United States and Implications for Prevention, Child Abuse & Neglect*, February 2012 <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213411003140>

³ *The Case for Home Visiting, Pew Center on the States*, May 2010 http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pcs_assets/2010/mombriefwebfinalpdf.pdf

⁴ *Marathon County Health Department Annual Report 2015* http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/HLD/Documents/MCHD_20160607_2015AnnualReport.pdf



By Katie Rosenberg
County Board Supervisor
District No. 1

Top 5 Leadership Tips Gleaned from Jeff Zriny's Code

Marathon County Board Member Jeff Zriny is a natural leader. Still, like any good professional, he's been honing his talents for decades. Long before he decided to run for District 16's supervisor seat, he knew he wanted to help people in a tangible way. He's shared his spark for public service by taking time to ignite a passion for leadership with those just beginning their journeys into this realm. Here are the top five pieces of advice, inspiration, and reflections from Jeff Zriny's Leadership Code.

1 Find your **PASSION**, but don't let it get in the way of your **POTENTIAL**.

Zriny graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a degree in psychology and intended to go into clinical psychiatry. But an offer from multinational consumer-goods company Procter & Gamble (P&G) came his way, so he changed his plan of going on to graduate school and decided to get right to work. *"It derailed my ongoing education,"* Zriny said. *"But it started my career in business."* While he may not have ultimately become a psychiatrist, Zriny says he greatly benefits from his educational background: *"Psychology was good in sales and in understanding what motivates people."*

2 "Not right now" isn't the same as "Never."

Before starting with P&G, Zriny received a second job offer from a Wausau legacy: *"I also got an interview with Wausau Insurance, but I went with what seemed more glamorous at the time."* After jet-setting with Procter & Gamble for a bit, he gave Wausau Insurance another look. A year later, he was employed by Wausau Insurance in their Employee Benefits Department. It allowed him to live in the Wausau area, but with a window to the world: *"I could fly to New York City for the day and meet with some brokers,"* Zriny said.

3 Sometimes being a leader means getting your hands dirty.

Zriny served as the Executive Director for the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce for several years. Unlike his previous corporate job settings, the Chamber was a small office with just a dozen employees. That meant that sometimes all hands were on deck. *"Job descriptions, pay grades, and ranks don't necessarily mean anything at the end of the day. When it's Small Business Week, you all roll your sleeves up and you do whatever you have to do. 'That's not in my job description' isn't an excuse."*

4 Experience is the greatest teacher.

"I had great mentors in my career and people that I could aspire to, and I got to work for a great company," Zriny reflected. Now he's looking to give back. *"I'm at a point in my career where I love mentoring and working with people and watching them develop."*

He is currently the chair of the North Central Health Care (NCHC) Board and has been helping NCHC leadership get through an uncertain year. *"I'm helping people and encouraging them, but also letting them know that there are failures in life. But you can get through these things."*

5 Life is a balancing act.

Zriny said that being a public official or devoted worker is demanding, and it can affect other parts of life. That's why finding a balance is important. *"I can remember sitting on the beach in Hawaii with my Blackberry and my wife telling me, 'You gotta stop now. You're on vacation.' You can't let your family, kids, or faith go because of your job. You have to find that balance."* These days, Zriny makes sure to find time to visit with family, go to church, and ride through the county on his bike.

While working through some of the major projects this session, Zriny said that he hopes others on the board can find their voices to contribute to the solutions, but that will require strong leadership.

“*Having some natural leaders that come up from the pool of the board is okay. But board leadership should help nurture some of those who are a little quieter and help them become engaged. We're doing this because we're trying to provide a contribution to this community and we want to give back. We live here because we think it's a great place to live and to raise a family.***”** ■



Jeffrey L. Zriny

**County Board
Supervisor
District No. 16**

Serving the Village
of Weston Ward 9
and the City of
Schofield

Renovations Underway at Marathon County Public Library Relocations Aimed at Improving Access for YOU!

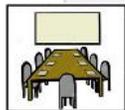


By Chad Dally
Library Specialist
Marathon County Public Library



Construction has started in a few areas of the Marathon County Public Library’s (MCPL’s) Wausau Headquarters to build two new spaces that will improve access for our patrons who attend the library’s programs and book sales.

The current work is the first part of a multiphase renovation project that will take place over the next 5–10 years, at least—though this initial phase is expected to be finished by the end of 2016. Both projects involve moving away from use of our 3rd floor and instead constructing new spaces on our 2nd floor for meetings/programs and in the basement area for our [Friends of the Marathon County Public Library](#).



- The 2nd-floor meeting room will be redesigned for use with larger programs. It will have a capacity for more than 100 people, with the option to swivel and open glass walls to accommodate really big events—like our summer library program events, which can draw several hundred people. It’s also where we’ll hold our monthly [MCPL Board of Trustees](#) meetings. **NOTE: The 2nd-floor meeting room can be reserved by outside groups that need a large central meeting space.** This room will house a full array of A/V equipment to meet the needs of staff for our programs, as well as those of outside groups.



- As for the library’s 3rd floor... Several times each year, hundreds of people visit the library’s 3rd floor for our Friends of MCPL Book Sale. **We’ll be constructing a new home for our library book sales in the west side of our basement area, facing the large parking lot next to the river.**

You may be asking, *Why? What’s the point? (Or How much will this cost?)*

The main reason for these changes is improved access for the public. Currently, the only way up to our 3rd floor is via elevator. (We do have stairs to that floor, but use is restricted to staff and emergencies only.) When the new 2nd-floor meeting room is finished, it will be accessible both by elevator and a walk up one flight of stairs—improving convenience for the public and for staff.

Housing the Friends room in the basement area will give the public quick access to our popular book sales from the parking lots, exterior stairs, and by elevator. (Anyone who’s patiently waited for our elevator to make the roundtrip journey from our 1st floor to our 3rd floor should appreciate the new location for our book sales!)

The cost of this first phase of construction is about \$452,000. The [Marathon County Public Library Foundation](#) will pay half the cost, and the other half will be paid out of the library’s capital improvement budget.



PLEASE NOTE: The Marathon County Public Library—Wausau Headquarters Drive-Thru will be temporarily closed until the basement construction is completed.

As for the soon-to-be empty 3rd floor, we’re exploring a number of possibilities to make the best use of that space so it doesn’t sit empty for too long. We appreciate your patience as we move through this and future phases of construction. Rest assured, it will be worth it! ■

As part of our goal to be transparent and accountable to you—the taxpayer—our Editorial Board publishes this eNewsletter: *Wisconsin Central Time NEWS*. It’s one more way for us to communicate to you what County officials and staff are doing to make Marathon County a great place to work, play, and live.

Do you have a question or comment about your County Government? I’d be happy discuss it with you.

Brad Karger, Marathon County Administrator



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