



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections Debuts

Diane Wessel, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning

The intent of this newsletter is to share information, improve partnerships, build relationships and improve leadership between Marathon County and area municipalities' leadership officials.

We will strive to provide information that is important to your communities in an accessible format, and to keep you informed of all activities and decision making at the county level.

We encourage you to distribute the information by local newsletters, postings, meetings, or word of mouth.

To truly serve its purpose, it is important that the newsletter is distributed to those who find it useful and contains information that is important to its readers. Therefore, feedback from you is welcome and necessary!

If there is a particular topic you would like more information about, please let us know. If you are receiving this newsletter but would rather not, let us know!

With limited resources and tight budgets, communities are finding it more difficult to update ordinances, provide services, and keep up with new laws.



The Neighborhood Connections section of the newsletter is an opportunity for the communities to voice their concerns, share ideas or ask for input.

To be a contributor, request articles for reproduction, or provide comments, contact the editorial board:

Dale Grosskurth, Health
Andy Johnson, CPZ
Mary Kluz, UW-Ext
Tom Lovlien, PRF
Diane Wessel, CPZ

Contact info on page 4

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Event

John Schlicher, Marathon County Health



What? Marathon County is offering you an opportunity to bring in unused pharmaceuticals for proper disposal.

Why? Flushing medications down the drain or placing them in the trash can contaminate ground

and surface waters. Theft and misuse of medications is on the rise. Our goal is to protect you and the environment by offering safe disposal options.

How? Bring medications in their original containers. You may black out

personal information. Law enforcement will be on site for safety.

Where? Hazardous Waste Facility, 301 Alderson St, Schofield

When? June 7, 2008
10 am - 2 pm

Contact: John Schlicher
261-1922

Special points of interest:

- Board of Review training available through UW-Ext LGC: 261-1241
- Gypsy moth spraying will begin in May
- Solid waste contracts: 715-446-3339
- Firewood from outside sources banned in County parks and forests
- Proposed AB718 delays implementation of Comprehensive Plans

Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Contracts

Meleesa Johnson, Marathon County Solid Waste

From residents contracting individually with waste haulers to local recycling drop-off sites to waste/recycling services at the end of the curb, a wide array of solid waste services exist in Marathon County. This variety gives each municipality the ability to fashion a program that best fits their citizens' needs and the respective municipal budgets. However, as municipalities work independent of one another on solid waste services, they may not be getting the biggest "bang for their buck."

As waste hauling fuel costs and DNR-related landfill fees increase, it is becoming more and more important for municipalities to investigate the merits of joining together on "master" waste/recycling service contracts. Communities small and large have far greater buying and negotiating power when combined than when they work independently. Master waste/recycling service contracts, when crafted correctly, allow municipalities to save money, keeps costs more consistent over time and are flexible enough to allow communities to decide what services are best for their needs.

If you are interested in more information regarding this concept or other waste/recycling issues, please contact the Marathon County Solid Waste Department, your county solid waste and recycling professionals.

Meleesa Johnson-Administrator
johnsome@co.portage.wi.us

Eileen Guthrie-Facility Supervisor
Eileen.Guthrie@mail.co.marathon.wi.us or
solidwas@pcpros.net

Marathon County Solid Waste Dept
715-446-3339



Annual Board of Review

Mary Kluz, Marathon County UW-Extension

The UW Extension Local Government Center (LGC) provides Annual Board of Review training for local officials. Training options are available:

1. Attend a WisLine program
2. Register for the online program
3. Order training materials

At least one voting member of every local Board of Review is required by law to attend an approved training session within two years of the Board's first meeting.

Boards may choose to have additional members trained as back up.

For more information:

Visit the LGC website at:
lgc.uwex.edu/Certified/BOR.html

Or contact:
Mary Kluz
Community Resource Dev Agent
Marathon County UW-Extension
(715) 261-1241

Firewood in Marathon County Parks & Forests

Ken Krueger, Marathon County Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

All Marathon County camping facilities prohibit campers from bringing in firewood from sources outside the campgrounds. This 2007 rule became necessary because firewood can harbor invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to Wisconsin trees. Pests like gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and oak wilt can be easily

spread through the transportation of infested firewood.

Campers may purchase wood at \$4/rick at campgrounds or gather up dead and down wood on site. The use of chain saws for wood gathering is not allowed. Firewood is sold at the Eau Claire Dells and Big Eau Pleine. Marathon Park does not allow campfires.

Camping information:
715-261-1550

Campsite reservations:
715-261-1566.



Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

Ed Hammer, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning

The gypsy moth is an invasive species that feeds on the foliage of trees. Depending on the population, its feeding can cause defoliation and eventual death of trees.

Marathon County serves as the coordinator for the DNR spray program. For municipalities to participate, counties need to coordinate the program which provides some reimbursement for the spray program. The Villages of Kronenwetter, Rothschild, and Weston and the Town of Rib Mountain are participating in the 2008 gypsy moth suppression program. The spraying will occur in late spring on 459 acres with gypsy moth infestations.

The spray contains insecticides specific to gypsy moth caterpillars. Although the insecticides are unlikely to cause any adverse health reactions, residents in areas to be sprayed are encouraged to stay indoors during spraying to avoid direct exposure.

Gypsy moth infestation levels can change yearly. Infestation is currently in an upswing. If you are a landowner with a gypsy moth infestation and are interested in the 2009 spray program, contact your local gypsy moth coordinator. If your community does not have a coordinator, contact a community representative to request that one be appointed.

Gypsy Moth Information: 1-800-642-MOTH

On the Web: www.gypsymoth.wi.gov

Local Gypsy Moth Coordinators:

Town of Rib Mountain
Scott Schattschneider: 848-5123

Village of Kronenwetter:
Nichole Starr: 693-4200

Village of Rothschild:
Rex Zemke: 359-3660

Village of Weston:
Shawn Osterbrink: 359-9988

City of Wausau
Blaine Peterson: 261-1558

Marathon County:
Ed Hammer: 261-6040



*Gypsy moth caterpillar
Photo from gypsymoth.wi.gov*

Marathon County Highway Department Policies & Procedures

Marathon County Highway Department has adopted a department policies and procedures manual. The manual is intended to provide important information to the general public and to serve as an internal manual providing clear direction to department staff and decision makers.

Topics include:

- Driveways
- Mail Boxes
- Utility Accommodation
- Road Debris and Obstructions
- Adopt - A - Highway
- Snow and Ice Removal
- Pavement Management

- Culvert and Bridge Program
- Overweight - Oversize Vehicles
- Snowmobiles and ATVs
- Public right of way
- Existing right of way widths

For a copy of the manual visit
the Highway Department on the
Marathon County website or
call: 261-1800



Legislative Spotlight—Assembly Bill 718

Diane Wessel, Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning

Assembly Bill 718 delays the implementation date of Comprehensive Plans from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2015.

Marathon County is opposed to AB718 because we feel it takes away the “teeth” of locally adopted Comprehensive Plans.

The implementation of Comprehensive Plans is what gives the plans their “teeth.” 50 Marathon County communities have adopted Comprehensive Plans that were developed over the course of 5+ years by community residents. Comprehensive Plans are the voice of the residents’ desires for the future of their communities.

Contact your legislator to voice **your** opinion about AB718.

Donald Friske: 715-536-4515
Jeffrey Mursau: 608-266-3780
Scott Suder: 715-223-6964
Amy Sue Vruwink : 715-652-2909
Donna Seidel: 715-845-2988
Jerry Petrowski: 715-845-6193
Mary Williams: 715-748-5980

Community Connections

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210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449

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

Conservation, Planning & Zoning: 261-6040
Health: 261-1900
Highway: 261-1800
Parks, Recreation & Forestry: 261-1550
Solid Waste: 446-3399
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

Did you know?????

Poniatowski, located in western Marathon County in the **Town of Rietbrock** is the exact geographic center of the northern half of the western hemisphere. It is where the 90th Meridian of Longitude bisects the 45th Parallel of Latitude. It is exactly halfway between the North Pole and the Equator. There are only 3 other locations on earth like this, 2 are in the ocean and one is in China. So, you don't have to travel far to visit one of the four "corners" of the world!

Neighborhood Connections—Combined Voices

Andy Johnson, Rib Falls Planning Commission

The Towns of Cassel, Rib Falls, Rietbrock and Wien along with the Villages of Edgar and Marathon have combined forces to provide the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WIDOT) with "statements of impact" and development alternatives for WIDOT's State Highway 29 Corridor Preservation Plan.

WIDOT has notified the communities of their intent to convert State Highway 29 to a freeway. Along the stretch of freeway from Highway 97 to 107, the WIDOT plans to limit traffic access to Hwy 29 by interchanges at only State Highways 97 and 107 and County Road H for safety. All local road access will be eliminated. This limited access will affect school and emergency service districts, farming, businesses, land

use and planning for local roads to support secondary traffic from Highway 29.

The local municipalities along with representatives from the area school districts, emergency service districts, and local businesses will meet with the WIDOT in April to discuss the impacts of limited access and to propose alternative options.

Each community has passed a resolution authorizing their Boards to join with other communities and pass a joint resolution to WIDOT. The joint resolution states that interchanges at County Roads M and S are needed to best serve the communities and their residents. The resolution will be presented to the Department of Transportation along with letters of support from local businesses, school districts

and emergency service districts. For a copy of the resolution, contact the Village of Edgar.

PARTICIPANTS:

Communities:

Cassel, Rib Falls, Rietbrock, Wien, Edgar, Marathon

School Districts:

Athens, Edgar, Marathon

Fire/Emergency Response Districts:

Athens, Edgar, Marathon, Hamburg

