



Sheboygan County News

A Newsletter for County Employees

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Sheboygan County Receives Good Government Award

by Kay Lorenz, Assistant to the County Administrator

On September 14th, County Board Chairman Mike Vandersteen and County Administrator Adam Payne were presented the Foth 2009 Wisconsin Good Government Award during the Annual Wisconsin Counties Association Conference in La Crosse.

Throughout Wisconsin, local units of government are striving to deliver valuable services with fewer resources. Cooperative service initiatives, regionalization of services and other innovative approaches are helping governments do more with less. In 2003, the Wisconsin Good Government Award Program was established to recognize the best of these efforts. The program seeks to recognize and promote effective examples of intergovernmental cooperation and

innovative programs throughout the state.

Three nominations were submitted by Sheboygan County for consideration: (1) Shared Sheboygan County Purchasing Agent with the City of Sheboygan, prepared by Bernie Rammer, (2) Sheboygan County's InHealth Clinic, prepared by Michael Collard and (3) Sheboygan County's Program Evaluation & Prioritization Process from 2005 and 2009, prepared by Kay Lorenz. The panel of judges was so impressed that they combined all of our submitted programs for the Wisconsin Good

Government Award recipient.

A Foth representative will be in attendance at the November 3rd County Board Meeting to present Sheboygan County with a \$1,000 Community Enhancement Grant. The County Board Chairman will determine which agency will receive the Community Enhancement Grant.



Together We Share, Together We Care

by Kay Lorenz, Assistant to the County Administrator

This year, our Sheboygan County neighbors are in greater need of services than perhaps ever before. We're all very aware of the large number of lay-offs that have occurred at companies throughout Sheboygan County due to the current economical conditions and have directly affected our family, friends and neighbors. The past year, unemployment in Sheboy-

gan County has been hovering around 10%. Fortunately, Sheboygan County as an organization has remained stable and we are poised to weather this storm.



The 2009 United Way Campaign packets will be distributed to employees the week of Monday, October 5th. The United Way provides valuable services to those in need such as food stamps,

budget counseling, health care and shelter. For every dollar you give to the United Way, 85 cents will go directly towards funding services right here in Sheboygan County.

Please give special consideration this year to helping your Sheboygan County neighbors that are in such great need of services. We're all in this together.

Tower Brings New Vision to Marsh

by Shawn Wesener, Assistant Planning Director



When you reach for the stars you may not quite get one, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either.

Leo Burnett Advertising executive



Thanks to the generous outpouring of support from the public and local businesses we are on our way to the top! Much like the citizens of Sheboygan County, the tower has begun with a strong foundation...followed by patiently waiting for materials. To date \$296,146.54 in private funding has been raised for the Marsh Tower Project. Final completion and grand opening is anticipated later this fall.

The Friends of the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh, partnering with Jos. Schmitt and Sons Construction and Sheboygan County, has been actively raising funds and coordinating the construction of what will be the tallest wooden observation tower in the State of Wisconsin at 80-feet.

The Friends group has offered many levels of participation for donors through their fund-raising efforts including the donation and sponsorship of platforms, mid-platforms, steps, and bricks. The donors include foundations, companies, and individuals. Currently donors have contributed toward 3 platforms, 9 mid-platforms, 54 steps, 294 8-inch bricks and 146 4-inch bricks, each with a personal engraving. These bricks will be placed at the base of the tower. The Sheboygan Marsh is held in high regard by residents

of Sheboygan County and beyond. The Friends group noted that many brick purchases were made by individuals outside Wisconsin. Out-of-state purchases include 2 bricks from Canada, 5 bricks from South Dakota, 4 bricks from Illinois, 2 bricks from California, and 1 brick each from Indiana, Minnesota, Montana, and Florida.

The Tower will create an opportunity to showcase the many wonderful aspects of the Marsh. In addition to panoramic observation from the tower itself, additional views can be experienced via a camera mounted on the tower broadcast to a screen in the Marsh Lodge. The tower has been a vision of the Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee, who supported establishing the Friends of the Marsh group that has worked so hard to make it happen. Now with the help of numerous donors and the volunteer efforts of the Friends of the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh, this wonderful resource will be available for all to enjoy later this fall.



The site selected is on the north side of the parking lot that is adjacent to County Road NR. This site was selected because it provided the best location for a spectacular view and minimal impact to the natural areas and the developed portion of the park.

The Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park & Wildlife Area includes 14,000 acres of land and surface water. Of these, 8,086 acres are publicly owned. The remainder is privately owned, some of which is publicly accessible. The tower will provide an opportunity to view this expansive resource.

There are still many opportunities to contribute toward this project. Anyone interested in donating toward the construction of the Marsh Tower can contact The Friends of the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh at: PO Box 301, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020; or email marshtower@co.sheboygan.wi.us for more information. In addition, the US Bank on 8th street in She-



boygan has a display of available steps and bricks for donation. Stop by and take a look! The Friends

of the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh welcome people of all ages to participate in this monumental effort that will benefit many generations to come.

Fire Pit Brings Pastime Memories

by Kim Loose, Rocky Knoll Activity Director

Spending a pleasant summer evening around a campfire is something to look forward to and is a pastime enjoyed by the young and the old. To assure this favorite pastime would continue for their loved ones now residing at Rocky Knoll, a group of family members joined together to raise \$7,000 to build a beautiful permanent fire pit area that all Rocky Knoll residents, their families and friends could enjoy. The fire pit was installed by the hands

of many volunteers. Since its completion, there have been many memorable resident and family gatherings around the campfire cooking up some special treats: S'mores, Pudgie Pies and hot dogs!

Fundraising efforts included bake sales, raffles, and the creation of a cookbook that is still available for \$12. If interested in purchas-



ing a cookbook, please contact Kim Loose at 893-8552. Others that provided a dona-

tion toward the project were the Rocky Knoll Auxiliary, Plymouth Lions Club-President's Gift, Land Steward Enhancements and the

Future Aerospace Leader Lands at Sheboygan County Airport

by Chuck Mayer, Airport Department Manager & Brian Morgan, President, Morgan Aircraft

It was April 2007 when Morgan Aircraft representatives first approached Sheboygan County officials with a proposal to build an aircraft manufacturing facility on the grounds of the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. On August 3, 2009, after more than two years of working through a multitude of site development details, the Sheboygan County Transportation Committee and Morgan Aircraft officially entered into a 50-year land lease development agreement.

The Sheboygan County Highway Department was awarded a contract from the WI Bureau of Aeronautics (WBOA) late in 2008 for the first phase of an airport site and infrastructure construction project which will transform a 50-acre parcel of land located in the airport's north-central quadrant into multiple lots that will be available for industrial and commercial hangars to be built by private sector companies. A number of the lots are also reserved per the new lease agreement for Morgan Aircraft.

As of August 2009, the Highway Department was awarded a second contract from WBOA for the second phase of the airport site and infrastructure construction at a total cost of \$1.5 million. Under an 80/20% cost share, the county will have invested \$300,000 for this site development.

Sheboygan County officials are also working with state and local officials to secure municipal sewer service to the airport and are anticipating construction of the sewer line at such time that Morgan officials have all financial assurances in place.

Morgan Aircraft is anticipating that the construction of their 100,000 square foot corporate headquarters and engineering hangar facility will begin later this year or early next. In these first buildings, they will assemble several manned prototype aircraft that will go through extensive performance and safety testing in order to receive FAA Type Certification. That will all give way to the larger task of

receiving Production Certification of their future factory where Morgan will manufacture multiple versions of their aircraft. This larger facility will ultimately be expanded to encompass 14 acres under one roof by the year 2018. Morgan Aircraft expects that well over 1,000 jobs will be created over the next ten year period.

"I want to convey my deepest appreciation for the truly outstanding effort that county leaders and surrounding communities have all put forth. It is indeed a pleasure to land our headquarters and new manufacturing facilities here. Thank you all for helping to make this our home!!"

Brian Morgan-President & CEO, Morgan Aircraft

Local Government Entities & Businesses March for Cancer

by Ruth Wilsing, Human Resources Benefits Assistant & Jeri Dreikosen, Sheboygan Area School District

On October 17th, 2009 from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM, a 2 or 4 mile fun walk/run beginning at the Sheboygan YMCA will be hosted by Sheboygan County, the City of Sheboygan, the Sheboygan Area School District, the YMCA, and the Sheboygan County Cancer Care Fund. THE PINK BRIGADE, a group of local breast cancer survivors, will lead the way!!! "We hope to



raise the awareness of early detection of breast cancer as well as early detection of all cancers". Aurora and St. Nick's will provide raffles and cancer prevention information. Walk in honor of loved ones who have survived cancer or in memory of those who have not. Wear something pink! A donation will get you a pink bandana! All proceeds will be kept locally and

given to the Sheboygan County Cancer Care Fund! For further details contact Ruth Wilsing, Sheboygan County at (920) 459-3578, Jeri Dreikosen, Wellness Coordinator for the Sheboygan Area School District at (920) 946-0396 or Alderperson, Jean Kittelson, Chairperson of the City's Wellness Committee at (920) 458-7119.

Let's March!

All Employee Appreciation Picnic Creams Top Officials

by Kay Lorenz, Assistant to the County Administrator

We had a beautiful day and attendees had a great time at the 2nd Annual All Employee Appreciation Picnic, which was held on August 13th at the Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. Much to the Picnic Planning Committee's surprise, there was some unexpected fun! Those present who had participated in the Health Risk Assessment through the InHealth Clinic had an opportunity to put their name in a random drawing to toss a whipped cream pie at either Human Resources Director Mike Collard or Rocky Knoll Administrator Mike Taubenheim. Jeff Blanke from the IS Department did an outstanding job tossing a pie at Mike Collard and Ellen Dhein, an LPN at Rocky Knoll, did equally as well with her pie toss at her boss, Mike Taubenheim. Last but not least, Sheboygan County's Public Health Officer, Dale Hippensteel, was selected for the very unexpected whipped cream pie toss at County Administrator Adam Payne!



265 employees participated in the event this year, up from last year. II Cool

provided the entertainment and Three Guys and a Grill from the Marsh Lodge provided the food.

\$25 Gift Card Door Prize Winners:

Bath & Body Works – Therese Janssen, Glenn Berg

Chamber Cash – Sue Van Ess-Behr, Gloria Nack, Cher Rouse, Diane Swanson, Nancy Williams, Pat Schmidt, Brenda Berres, Barbara Pfister, Alma Payne, Bonnie Widder, Steve Falk, Julie Schaefer, Charlie Paul, Cheryl Gurholt, Ed Karsteadt, Barb Sertich-Kress

Citgo – Bob Ostermann, John Brill, Pat Miles, Jaimie Schirmer

Fleet Farm – Bob Lorenz, Suzie Fenn,

Nila Born, Charlotte Limberg

Hobby Lobby – Dan Weber, Lisa Fortin, Kim Feld, Judy Stalter, Spencer Krahn

Kohl's – Diane Wolfert, Char Becker

Marsh Lodge – Chad Radloff, Kathy Grohskopf

Pick'n Save – Vickie Lesch, Bernie Rammer, Deb Jacoby

Other Door Prizes:



Case of Johnsonville Brats – Patti Levendusky

Sheboygan County Edition Monopoly Game – Theresa Gruenwald, Joanne Cleveland

Sheboygan County Apparel with Logo – Pat Prigge, Julie Kovacs, Jeanne Braatz, Ellen Cheney, Dawn Blok, Dale Hippensteel, Mike Collard, Karen Lawrence, Phil Vanderweele, Chris Jeske, Paul Dirkse, Linda Abbott, Mary Borstad, Jessica Bitter

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DA's Office Responsible for More than Prosecutions

by Joe DeCecco, District Attorney

The Sheboygan County District Attorney's Office, located on the first floor of the Sheboygan County Courthouse, is the only County Department comprised of both County and State employees. The prosecutors are all State employees while everyone else is a County employee.

Our office is mandated by state statute to prosecute all crimes occurring in Sheboygan County. In addition, this office is charged with prosecuting all non-criminal traffic and ordinance citations on behalf of the Wisconsin State Patrol, the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that occur in the County. Finally, our office is charged with prosecuting a variety of juvenile matters including delinquencies, Children/Juveniles In Need Of Protection or Services (CHIPS/JIPS), Truancies, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), Guardianships, juvenile ordinance violations and inoculation violations.

The D.A.'s Office has eight state prosecutors and 15 County employees, organized in distinct divisions within our office: prosecutor staff; Victim/Witness Unit; Check Fraud Unit; and Support Staff. Our office serves eight law enforcement agencies who have jurisdiction in Sheboygan County: Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department; police departments of the Cities of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, and Plymouth; Villages of Kohler and Elkhart Lake; Wisconsin State Patrol; and Department of Natural Resources.

Our prosecution staff consists of one District Attorney (elected), one Deputy District Attorney, and six Assistant District Attorneys. As representatives of the State of Wisconsin, they are required to review police reports, select the appropriate charge(s), dictate criminal complaints, make all court appearances including jury trials, prepare search warrants and document subpoenas and respond to all post-conviction requests. Over the last decade, the number of cases has risen dramatically and each prosecutor has several hundred cases to juggle at any one time. We are currently five full-time prosecutors short of what we need to adequately address our case load, according to the independent, bipartisan Legislative Audit Bureau analysis. Needless to say, prosecutors' respective stress levels are extremely high.

Our Victim/Witness unit is comprised of a Program Supervisor, a family violence specialist, a victim/witness specialist and a Secretary III. The duties of this unit cannot be assumed by any other member of our office staff due to state financial reimbursement requirements. Approximately 55% of this unit's total budget is currently reimbursed by the State.

The core purpose of the Victim/Witness program, established in 1984, is to provide support and advocacy services to all crime victims and witnesses in Sheboygan County. Chapter 950 of the Wisconsin State Statutes describes in detail the basic bill of rights for victims and witnesses of crime and the mandated services that are provided, and Sheboygan County was one of the first counties in the state to create a Victim/Witness Unit. Services provided include notice of charging decisions, court dates, the right to restitution, and safe escort to and from court. It's this unit's goal to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity and that their rights are honored and protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded criminal defendants. The Victim/Witness Office works closely with law enforcement agencies, social services, probation and parole and many community agencies. The office also provides training to law enforcement, the citizen academy and the public. This unit is recognized throughout Wisconsin as one of the leading Victim/Witness offices in the state, and our staff is frequently requested to present at state Victim/Witness training conferences.

Our Check Fraud Unit consists of two part-time check fraud investigators who run our Check Diversion Program. This program allows most persons who write worthless checks to enter an agreement with the District Attorney's office to avoid criminal prosecution. The participants are required to pay an administrative fee of \$35.00 (or 20% of the total amount of checks owed, whichever is greater) and then are given time to directly pay the victims (mostly area merchants) for the issued checks, including returned check fees and costs. Once repayment is verified by the victims, no further legal action is taken. In 2008, the five year anniversary of the Check Diversion Program, our

FEATURED DEPARTMENT *continued*

office had returned a total in excess of \$358,800 to area merchants for that five year period, and collected county revenue through its fees totaling about \$74,000.

The remainder of our county employees, our support staff, are the heart and soul of our office. They provide direct support to our prosecution staff and consist of the Office Supervisor, three Paralegal Aides, one Legal Secretary and four Secretaries (I, II, III). Among them, they have a total of more than 150 years of experience in their areas of expertise.

The work of the D.A. support staff is divided into three divisions: criminal, juvenile and traffic. Each employee has assigned duties but are cross trained to handle other work as needed. The work consists of preparation of numerous work product documents in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes mandates. The bulk of these documents consist of criminal complaints; search warrants; records subpoenas; summonses; criminal warrants; witness subpoenas; extraditions; death reports; recorded interview transcripts; writs; court motions, briefs and orders; delinquency petitions; CHIPS petitions; Termination of Parental Rights petitions (TPR); juvenile consent decrees and sanction orders. The support staff is also responsible for processing juvenile ordinances; discovery (case materials that must be provided to the charged person); non-criminal traffic and ordinance cases.

Finally, the support staff is proficient in a state-wide prosecution computer program known as PROTECT. This system not only establishes a data base for criminals, victims and witnesses, it also provides electronic interface with the Sheboygan County Clerk of Courts Office so that our high volume of filed court documents may be electronically transferred, maximizing efficiency as our number of cases continues to drastically increase.

In summary, most of us have worked together in this office for a decade or two. We have developed exceptional professional relationships and maintain high morale which helps us not only meet the severe challenges we face on an everyday basis, but has established a profound respect for each employee's role and skills as we move forward together to accomplish our common goal—justice well served in Sheboygan County.

Nancy Cruises with Creativity

by Nancy Risch, Secretary III, District Attorney's office

I was hired in 1997 as the Secretary/Receptionist for Victim Witness Services in the District Attorney Office and have worked in that office for the entire 12 1/2 years I've been with the County. I like my job because my duties are interesting and usually never the same every day. I'm responsible for greeting clients at the window, answering the phone and giving information to victims and witnesses about upcoming cases, and I also help out with court escort of victims and witnesses. One of my more important duties is sending victims of crime documents to fully inform them of their rights as victims under Wisconsin law and to forward their restitution requests to our attorneys, defense attorneys and judges.

I'm single and live in Manitowoc and commute back and forth every day. In my free time I enjoy traveling, with my favorite form of travel being sea cruises. I'll be going on my 14th cruise this coming January. I can't wait!

I also love to sew and have recently been creating one-of-a-kind, Vera Bradley-like quilted purses. Word of mouth has helped me sell all of my creations to happy customers.

If I'm not sewing or traveling, I also enjoy reading and watching movies.

