



Neighbors

Newsletter of the Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)



Walworth County Veterans Park

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Fall 2010 ICC Meeting

Our next I.C.C. meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 6 PM at the Government Center. Topics on the agenda include:

- Presentation on the STEP Up for Safety Program (Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program)
- Presentation on statewide smoking ban
- Presentation concerning study on township road safety

United Way of Walworth County

Consolidations are rare in Walworth County. Late in 2009, however, the United Way chapters of Delavan-Darien and Lake Geneva merged to form the United Way of Walworth County. The “new” United Way recently began its fall 2010 fundraising campaign. By funding numerous non-profit agencies, United Way provides an important “safety net” for residents in our county. As local governments face budget cuts and downsizing, these non-profit groups will play an even greater role in providing services. I encourage anyone who wishes to learn more about the United Way of Walworth County or who wants to schedule an appointment to contact Vicki Jacobs, Executive Director, at 262.374.4474 or via email at vjacobs@uw-wc.org. Consider a payroll deduction plan for your employees.

National Flood Insurance Program

Discounts on flood insurance premiums, ranging from 5% up to 45%, are available for community property owners through the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The discounts are offered as an incentive for new flood protection activities that can help save lives and property in the event of a flood. Communities can choose to participate in the CRS by undertaking some or all of the 18 public information and floodplain management activities described in the CRS Coordinator’s Manual. To learn more about the CRS program, visit www.fema.gov and enter “community rating system.”



Preschool parade, County Veterans Park - July 2010

Community Action Agency, Inc.

At the June 22 ICC meeting, members were asked to assist in a needs assessment regarding poverty issues in Walworth County. The needs assessment is being conducted by Community Action Agency, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties. As a part of the needs assessment, Community Action surveyed 658 Rock and Walworth County residents that had been on a list used in providing energy assistance in both counties. Some of the

most significant issues that emerged on that preliminary survey included the inability of residents to find full-time work, low credit rating and lack of health care insurance.

Walworth County Winter Road Maintenance

ICC members had an interesting discussion concerning winter road maintenance at their June 22 meeting. Ted Peters from the Geneva Lake Conservancy agency spoke to the committee regarding the rising levels of salt in Lake Geneva. There is little doubt that road salt is (an environmental concern. While we are not at a crisis stage yet, the time to act is before environmental damage becomes too significant. An interesting article on the topic of road salt can be found in the February 20, 2010 edition of *Wisconsin Natural Resources*, online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2010/02/salt.html>.

Walworth County at German Fest 2010

Opening ceremonies at Milwaukee's 2010 German Fest were delayed due to flooding rains that began in southeast Wisconsin on July 22. Several adventurous Walworth County officials nevertheless attended ceremonies and festival activities.

Walworth County served as the Honor County at this year's German Fest celebration. We were selected, in part, because of our successful "sister county" partnership with Waldeck-Frankenberg,

Germany. The Walworth County Visitors Bureau worked with Milwaukee Germanfest officials to coordinate the event. In addition to promoting tourism, businesses in Walworth County were at the festival promoting their products and services. Entertainment at the festival included local and international musical groups. Despite the poor weather, the festival was a success, drawing more than 65,000 visitors.

Auctions - Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction

Our June 22 meeting featured a presentation by Peggy Watson, Walworth County Purchasing Manager, on Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction. The website is a great place to purchase surplus equipment from other local governments or sell surplus property that your township or municipality might have. You can check out the website at www.wisconsin-surplus.com or contact Peggy at 262.741.7261 for more information.