

April 2008 Department Director Reports

Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- The ADRC will be hosting, in partnership with the Arthritis Foundation, an Arthritis Awareness Walk on Saturday, May 3rd. The walk will begin at 9 a.m. with registration starting at 8 a.m. at the YMCA. There is no registration fee as the walk is intended to raise awareness of the arthritis marketing program "Physical Activity, the Arthritis Pain Reliever." Immediately following the walk, and inside the Y, participants will be able to experience warm water exercises and land exercises that help relieve arthritis pain. Please remember to bring your swimsuit and a towel. Displays of programs and activities that meet the marketing campaign criteria will be set up at the Y.
- To learn more about arthritis and exercise programs for people with arthritis, please visit our website at <http://www.manitowocadrc.org>. Once at this site, click on Prevention Programs on the left side of the screen, then click on Arthritis. To register for the walk, please e-mail or call our office at x4180 or x4181. T-shirts will be given to people who walk and try out the exercises. Refreshments will also be served.
- The ADRC received notice from Dr. Dean VonDras in the Human Development Program at UW-Green Bay that he is seeking volunteers ages 40 to 100 years old to participate in a Health Perceptions Survey. The survey is a mailed survey that contains a brief story and questions inquiring into the participant's perception of illness symptoms as well as questions asking about current health and lifestyle. If interested, please contact Dr. VonDras at 920-465-5012 or <mailto:vondrasd@uwgb.edu>.

County Clerk

- Thank you to those who voted in the April 1st election. Countywide turnout for eligible voters was 17%.
- Because of the April 1st election, we had a chance to clear away some mental cobwebs and learn a lot regarding the procedures for an election recount. It was the first recount since the 2002 state Senate race between Jim Baumgart and Joe Leibham. The recount was conducted on Wednesday morning and was one of the more extensive recounts because the 25th Supervisory District lies in four municipalities: the Towns of Two Rivers and Manitowoc and the Cities of Two Rivers and Manitowoc.
- Need manila folders? We have about 200+ of them collecting dust on our "free shelf" in the vault area of the Clerks' Office. The free shelf also has three binders of various sizes, an adding machine, and an electric typewriter. All items are available on a first come, first served basis.

Emergency Management

- Nancy Crowley, EM Director, is attending the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference April 5-11 in Nevada. Nancy serves as a member of the conference steering committee on the program, registration, and future sites committees, so it's a "working week" to see that 300+ attendees leave knowing they learned something.

Health

- National Public Health Week is April 7th through the 13th. This year's theme is Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance.
- Be Prepared: Prepare for climate change related emergencies by creating "Climate Kits". Become informed about the health impacts of climate change and regional climate change issues facing our community.
- Travel Differently: Leave the car at home. Use public transportation, carpool, walk, bike, or telecommute.
- Eat Differently: Eat less meat. Buy local produce from our community farmers' market.
- Green Your Work: Use recycled paper, print less, use energy-saving computer settings and green your office.
- Green Your Home: Seal and insulate your home. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and use water efficiently.
- For more information, visit <http://www.nphw.org>

Highway

- April 7-11, 2008 has been designated by the Federal Highway Administration as "Work Zone Safety Awareness Week" throughout the United States. The Manitowoc County Highway Commission hopes that drivers will be aware of the danger to Highway workers while in the work zone.
- Work zone fatalities have risen dramatically in the last few years. On average in Wisconsin, there are over 1,700 work zone accidents each year with 12 fatalities.
- It is an all too common occurrence for vehicles to pass highway workers at unreasonable and unsafe speeds. During the week of April 7-11, 2008, the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department will be proactively monitoring traffic in work zones through enforcement efforts to reduce the numbers of violators.
- It is Law in Wisconsin that when approaching any emergency vehicles, tow trucks and/or highway maintenance vehicles that have their emergency or warning lights on, motorists must slow down and drive with due regard. The "Move Over Law" also states that motorists must move to the furthest lane on roadways with two or more lanes proceeding in the same direction if it can be done safely and without interfering with any other traffic. Fines for this violation are considerable, as much as \$243.00, with three points against the license, and a suspension of the license if it involves an accident.
- The Manitowoc County Highway and Sheriff Departments are united in asking drivers to slow down in work zones or whenever passing maintenance or law enforcement vehicles to keep highway workers, law enforcement and other emergency workers safe on our highways.

Human Services

- The Manitowoc County Resource Directory continues to have quite a bit of activity each month. For the first three months of 2008, there were 344,856 "hits" or visits to this directory. If you know of a resource you think should be included on the website, you can visit <http://www.manitowocresources.com> and follow the directions for submitting an entry. There are over 800 different service providers listed. Most of these are in the county but there are also a few in the region.
- This has been very helpful to new residents, those searching for assistance for their relatives and friends, and others who need information about services available in the community.

Joint Dispatch Center

- Holly Matze started training March 24th as a new, part-time dispatcher in the JDC. She will spend the next three to four months in training. Please welcome Holly.
- Two candidates have been selected for a final interview for the JDC supervisor position we hope to fill May 1st. We had a strong group of applicants for the position, which made decision-making more challenging.
- April 13-19 is National Telecommunicator Week. In Manitowoc County, the event will be celebrated in house with a relaxation of the dress code, and a couple of "surprises" arranged by the JDC supervisors. In conjunction with the national honor, Manitowoc County agencies served by the JDC nominate a local telecommunicator (dispatcher) as Telecommunicator of the Year. This year's honoree is Ann Sheahan, an eleven year veteran in the Center on the night shift. Ann received glowing recommendations from many of her peers and agency personnel. She was honored by the Business and Professional Women's Club at their April dinner meeting at the Best Western Lakeshore Hotel. We will host a reception in her honor at the Sheriff's Department on April 17th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in Conference room A. Please feel free to stop in and congratulate Ann on the 17th.

Personnel

- On April 1st, HR Connection replaced MyCompanyHR as the new and improved online resource for county information. From benefit information and forms to job postings and training opportunities, it's all there in one easy-to-access, convenient location. Upcoming Prepare to Care training sessions are now posted in the career growth/training section. Visit <http://www.hrconnection.com> and enter the username and password provided to you. If you are not able to enter the site, please contact Personnel at x4060.

Planning & Park

- Our Department's septic maintenance program has been in effect since 1983 but has only been active since 2006. Even though we have seen a decline in the number of new septic systems being installed, there has been an increase in the number of replacement septic installations due to property transfer and maintenance programs.
- In 2006, the number of replacement septic permits were almost double the number of new installation permits. In 2007, the number of replacement

permits were more than triple our new installation permits. According to the Department of Commerce, Manitowoc County was one of only a handful of counties that showed an increase in permit issuances for 2007. Not only are these programs good for protecting our environment, but they also benefit local businesses. Some installers informed us they would have to lay people off or quit installing if these programs were not active and generating work for them.

- As more and more septic systems are replaced, we are finding citizens who are unable to afford the cost. To help alleviate the financial burden, our department has identified financial assistance programs. Since 1983, our Department has provided Manitowoc County citizens with financial assistance through a reimbursement program called the Wisconsin Fund Program. If the homeowner qualifies, they could be reimbursed \$1,000 to \$5,000 dollars from the State, provided the septic system has been installed and paid for by the owner.
- This is a great program, but it does not help those select few who are unable to obtain a loan from a regular lending institution to pay for a new system. Therefore, we contacted the EPA, other States, the Department of Commerce and the Wisconsin DNR to find out if there are other programs or forms of assistance which could be made available to Wisconsin residents. We are happy to say that so far we were able to identify five programs that can provide assistance to those who qualify. Homeowners may call our office or stop in for additional information. Below is a list of the programs designed to help reduce the cost of septic replacement.

1. USDA Section 504 Repair Loan and Grant Program: Qualifying homeowners can receive up to \$20,000.00 at a 1% interest rate for a term of 20 years **OR** if the owner is over the age of 62 and can show that they cannot repay the loan, they can qualify for a grant up to \$7,500.00.

2. WHEDA Home Improvement Loan Program: Qualifying applicants could receive up to \$17,500 for 15 years at an interest rate to be determined by WHEDA.

3. Foundation for Rural Housing Inc. Critical Assistance Program: This is a grant/loan program which provides a one-time maximum grant of \$1,000.00 to qualifying homeowners. (If you qualify for the WI Fund program you cannot apply for this grant.)

4. Department of Veterans Affairs – Personal Loan Program: This program provides Wisconsin veterans another alternative for obtaining a loan when a bank or other lending institution may deny the applicant.

5. Department of Veterans Affairs – Home Improvement Loan Program: Provides a loan to Wisconsin veterans which can be used for septic or well replacement.

- Homeowners who replace old septic systems are doing their part in cleaning up our environment and making Manitowoc a better and healthier place to

live. We hope that the programs available are of assistance in reducing the financial burden when replacing septic systems.

- We are also discussing the possibility of setting up some type of Self Revolving Fund (SRF) to provide citizens with enough money to complete a soil test and acquire septic plans and a permit. They would be subject to paying off the loan once they receive their program benefits.
- If you know of other programs that would be beneficial to homeowners for this type of project, please contact the Planning & Park Department at x4185 so that we can notify local installers and post that information in our office.

Public Works

- Celebrate Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day 2008 on **April 19** from 9am to 2pm at the UW Manitowoc Campus located at 705 Viebahn Street. Join us at this Earth Day event for exhibits, presentations, a rummage sale and music. Concessions will be available. Learn how you can help make a difference. Participate in a number of eco-friendly collections including a Drug Disposal Program, Battery Collection (free), Mercury Thermometer Exchange and others. For more information, visit <http://www.manitowocrecycles.org/>

- Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep

The 2008 Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep programs will be held Friday, **May 16** and Saturday, **May 17**. Help keep our communities and environment safe and clean. Bring hazardous waste items such as old paints, pesticides, cleaning products, automotive chemicals and mercury to a Clean Sweep Program near you.

Residents and farms can dispose of hazardous chemicals for free. Farms and businesses must pre-register with the county in which they are participating. Businesses may be eligible for subsidized disposal rates. For dates, times and locations for each county, visit <http://www.manitowocrecycles.org/clean%20sweep%202008.htm#Locations%20and%20times>

For more information, call the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 683-4333.

- Drug Disposal Programs

Manitowoc County will be holding Drug Disposal Programs on **April 19** from 9am to 2pm at the UW Manitowoc Campus on 705 Viebahn Street in Manitowoc and on **May 16** from 3 pm to 6 pm at the Kiel City Garage on 705 Washington Street in Kiel. Do your part to keep our communities safe and clean by participating in these programs. Bring unwanted drugs and medications to these programs for disposal free of charge. Accepted items include: prescription medications, over the counter drugs, controlled substances and illegal drugs. You can also bring in your mercury thermometer and exchange it for a digital one. Limit of one per household (while supplies last).

Please follow these guidelines:

- Needles and sharps will not be accepted
- Keep items in their original containers
- Do not mix medications in the same container
- Businesses may not participate
- You may block out personal information on the drug container but please keep the drug name visible

Upcoming events at Expo:

- April 12-13 - Horse-A-Rama, Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission \$5/day, \$8/weekend. Featuring presenters Cleve Wells and Gareth Selwood, pony and wagon rides, silent auctions, many vendors and concessions.
- April 23-25 - Lakeshore Clipper Classic - 7:30 p.m. This annual sale features high quality registered holsteins. Open to the public. Located in Walters Building/Milk Parlor.
- April 26-27 - 26th Annual Northeastern Wisconsin WI Charity Motorcycle Show and Dance. Admission \$4. Seniors \$2. 12 and under free.
- 18 motorcycle classes - antique to radical. Chance to win a 2008 Harley Davidson Street Glide or \$10,000 cash. This is the biggest charity bike show and dance in the state.
- For additional information, visit <http://www.manitowocountyexpo.com/events.htm>

Sheriff's Department

- Law Enforcement Officer and Corrections Officer of the Year Awards
Sergeant Dan Hartwig has been selected to receive the "Law Enforcement officer of the Year" Award. **Sergeant Eric Schultz** has been selected to receive the "Corrections Officer of the Year" Award. Both awards are sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Manitowoc Aerie No. 706. Dan and Eric are both very deserving of this special recognition.
They will be honored at an awards banquet at the Eagles Club, 823 Hamilton Street, Manitowoc on Saturday, April 19, 2008.
The banquet begins with a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with dinner and program to follow.
- In an effort to recruit and hire the most qualified candidates, the Sheriff's Department has developed a "Career Opportunities" brochure and a video slide show presentation to highlight various department activities, job positions and specialties. The brochure and slide show were used recently at a job fair at UW-Milwaukee. Kudos to Chris Eisenschink from Personnel and Kathy Leist from the Sheriff's department for all their hard work on the brochure and to Lieutenant Brian Nack for the video slide show.

UW-Extension

- **NEW Lunch 'n' Learn - A Leader's Legacy (video and brief discussion)**

April 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

MCOC, Room 300

Each one of us has the opportunity to be a leader and a role model. Through our efforts, we can significantly encourage the success and productivity of those around us. But such influence takes work. Leadership is personal: the people you lead need to know who you are and what you care about before they can follow you. In this informative and motivational video, Jim Kouzes shares his conviction that we all want to live a life of significance, and that the legacy we leave is the life we lead.

Contact: Laurie Gehrke at x4170 or <mailto:lauriegehrke@co.manitowoc.wi.us> to register

No cost. Bring your lunch.

- Today, 30 million households are providing care for an adult over the age of 50, and that number is expected to double over the next 25 years. For many Americans, life at 40, 50, or even 60 years old will include care for an aging parent or relative. As the nation grows older, the need for caregiving will be as common as the need for child care. Manitowoc County demographic trends indicate a significant growth in its 45 year old and older population by 2020. Hence, the number of Manitowoc County employees in adult caregiving roles will increase in the coming years. A 2008 survey indicated there are at least 122 Manitowoc County employees who are currently providing care for up to four adults weekly.

On April 30th, Faye Malek will offer the "Prepare to Care" program at two different times, noon to 1:00 and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This program will assist Manitowoc County employees in their efforts to get organized with adult caregiving roles using a four-step planning guide. To register, please contact Faye at x4171 by Friday, April 25th.

Department Highlight - Soil & Water

The mission of the Soil & Water Conservation Department is to protect our environment to enhance the quality of life for all county citizens. Our responsibilities are to:

- Provide technical assistance to landowners and land occupiers and town, city and village governments for implementation of best management practices to protect the county's natural resources;
- Implement state agricultural runoff performance standards;
- Enforce county ordinances that protect soil and water resources;
- Administer the state's Farmland Preservation Program;
- Deliver an information and education program to promote effective soil and water resource management; and
- Coordinate the county's land and water conservation program with federal, state and local agencies.

For a copy of the five-year Land and Water Plan for Manitowoc County, please contact the Soil & Water Office at 683-4183.

Our office is located at the Manitowoc County Office Complex (MCOC) on Expo Drive.

News from Other Units of Government

City of Two Rivers

From an online 3/11/08 HTR article

- Two Rivers is one of 66 finalists in the “Best Town in Wisconsin” competition.

There are 20 categories, and Two Rivers is one of five finalists in the “Best Town for a Biking Getaway” category. The others are Boulder Junction, Brodhead, Plymouth and Sparta. The finalists rose to the top of a list of towns nominated by the public on the www.WondersOfWisconsin.com Web site in January and February.

To be considered a “town”, the community had to be listed on the Official Wisconsin Highway Map published and distributed free by the Association of Wisconsin Tourism Attractions and have a population listed at fewer than 15,000 people. More than 300 people submitted more than 600 nominations, according to the press release. A committee, including travel journalists and authors, narrowed the field to five finalists per category. Some communities were finalists in multiple categories.

***Please vote for your favorites through Thursday April 24,
at <http://www.WondersOfWisconsin.com>***