



Volume 4, Issue 7
July 2015

CALENDAR

- July
3
HAPPY 4th of JULY!!!
 All Walworth County
 Offices will be closed for
 Independence Day

- July
16
JULY 16 Friends of White River
 County Park at 6:00 PM at the
 Park Barn

- July
20
JULY 20 Walworth County
 Parks Committee Meeting at
 1:00 PM at the Government
 Center County Boardroom #114

- July
20
JULY 20 Walworth County
 Public Works Committee
 Meeting at 3:30 PM at the
 Government Center County
 Boardroom #114

What's on Page 2

- Employee Anniversaries ✓
- Personnel News ✓
- Performance-Based Maintenance on State Highways ✓
- Message from WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb ✓
- White River County Park Volunteer Photos ✓
- Save the Date— upcoming Clean Sweep program ✓

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS

A monthly publication from the Walworth County Public Works Department.

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Lake Beulah Dam Project Challenging Completion Still Scheduled for August

The construction of the new Lake Beulah Dam Spillway on CTH J in the Town of East Troy has been a challenging project for the Department of Public Works, consultants Patrick Engineering and its contractor Terra Engineering and Construction.



the dam spillway, installation of the new spillway box culverts, weir and interlocutory dam were expedited to allow for additional flow once the lake levels rose to their unprecedented highs.

Heavy rainfall in early June (total rainfall for the County for the month was 6.69 inches more than 3 times the historical average for June of 1.96 inches and a near all-time record monthly high) resulted in lake water levels that were higher than many lake residents had ever seen in their lifetimes.

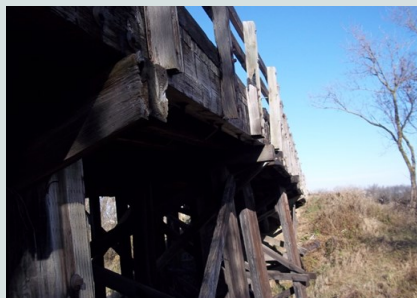
From a high lake water mark of 808.68 on June 18th, the water level dropped 2.5 inches by June 23rd and returned to its normal level at the dam of approximately 808.20 by June 27th.

While a temporary diversion channel was required to be constructed by Terra to maintain flow through

The County appreciates the understanding and patience of Lake Beulah residents as this project progresses. The good news is that the contractor, despite this project's challenges, is still on schedule to complete work by the end of August.

Many Bridges in Walworth County are in Deteriorated Condition 14 Qualify for Possible State Funding

Every two years, every bridge in the County is inspected and given a sufficiency rating by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation of between 0 and 100 (100 representing a new bridge).



A sufficiency rating of less than 50 is regarded as an indicator that the bridge is in need of replacement or rehabilitation in the near future. Of the 87 municipal bridges in Walworth County (city, village, town or county- owned), 13 bridges are rated below the 50 sufficiency rating and are eligible for Wisconsin Local bridge funding. One additional bridge, the Richmond Road over Swan Creek located in the City of Delavan, was also determined to be eligible for funding although its sufficiency rating was higher than 50.

While these 14 bridges are all eligible for possible State financial assistance, there is only enough funding for a couple of projects during the next bridge grant process. Even those successful projects can't be constructed until 2019 at the earliest due to grant process requirements.

This developing situation is quite alarming as many local governments will face hardship in trying to finance bridge replacements that can cost up to several million dollars. Walworth County is evaluating this and is considering ways that it might fully fund its own bridge projects in the future without relying on State funding.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Stephanie Rodgers—26 years
Bob Free—20 years
David Gross—20 years
Terry Walkowicz—16 years
Art Nelson—13 years
Kevin Brunner—3 years
Joe Hooverson—1 year

“A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst and it sparks

PERSONNEL NOTES

We welcome **Amy Limones** to our **DPW family**. Amy has worked for the County for a little over 5 years, most recently at HHS. As our new Highway Administrative Secretary, she brings her great enthusiasm and organizational skills to our department. We are glad she is on board!

Welcome to our **New Senior Maintenance Technician John Smith** John Smith joined the facilities staff on June 29th as the new senior maintenance technician serving the Health and Human Services building. Smith brings almost 30 years of HVAC, electrical, plumbing, carpentry and other facility maintenance experience to the County, most recently as the owner of Smith Mechanical Contractors in Burlington.

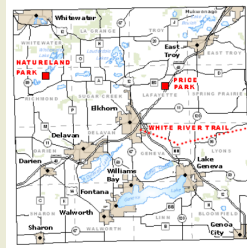
SAVE THE DATE



October 2 & 3, 2015
Walworth County
Clean Sweep

Event details to follow in
August Issue

Walworth County Contracting for Performance-Based Maintenance on State Highways this Summer



This summer, the Public Works Department will again be providing performance-based maintenance (PbM) services to WisDOT on State Highways in the County as part of a pilot project. For these projects, rather than provide requested services on a time and material basis, the County provides a cost estimate with unit pricing to WisDOT which, in turn, approves a contract for the County with a cost not to exceed. Any funds received in excess of the County's actual expenses are kept by the County and are reserved for future highway projects.

This summer, Public Works has submitted quotes for the following PbM projects:

- Crackfilling on STH 11/36 (Burlington Bypass)
- Chipsealing STH 67 from USH 14 to West County Line
- Deck Sealing on 20 I-43 Bridges
- Shouldering on STH 89 from STH 11 to Lake Lorraine Road

Work has already started on the STH 11/36 project while the County is still awaiting contract approval for the other three projects.

We need your help to have a summer of safety and save lives on Wisconsin roads

By Mark Gottlieb, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

You may have noticed the number of traffic fatalities being displayed on message signs along major roadways around the state. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is using this somber message to remind everyone that driving is the most dangerous activity most of us perform each day.

Last year, Wisconsin had 496 traffic fatalities, which was the lowest number of deaths and the first time below 500 fatalities, since 1943. However, at the midway point of this year, traffic fatalities in Wisconsin are up significantly compared with the same period last year. This substantial increase in traffic deaths includes motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists as well as drivers and passengers in cars and trucks.

To reverse this tragic trend, WisDOT is intensifying its traffic safety efforts. Along with other engineering improvements, we will continue to add rumble strips to highways to help prevent drivers from crossing into oncoming lanes of traffic or running off the road. We will work diligently with our law enforcement partners to put more officers on the road for traffic safety enforcement in areas and at times when crashes are more likely to occur. We will maintain our education and public outreach efforts to motivate motorists to make better decisions and take responsibility for their actions behind the wheel.

But WisDOT and our traffic safety partners also need your help to prevent crashes. As we enter the busy summer travel months - typically the months with the highest number of traffic fatalities - we urge you to buckle up, slow down, pay attention and drive sober. We also need you to share the road with motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Above all, we need you to drive as if your life-and other lives-depended on it.

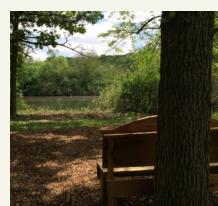
Volunteers Working to Improve White River County Park



Clearing an area of Invasive Species of Buckthorn and Honeysuckle



Setting up a Memorial Bench



View of Park Barn with New Roof