

OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Quarterly newsletter of Washington County, Wisconsin

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROSPER.



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOSH SCHOEMANN**



Saving Summer for Our Kids and Families

Summer 2022 is officially underway, and the effects of a struggling national economy - soaring gas prices, strained supply chains and countless job vacancies - are putting incredible pressure on families, businesses and local governments. Whether it's revised vacation plans, modified hours due to staff shortages or outright closures, we are all experiencing challenges. Yet, in spite of all this, *Our Great Community* has come together once again, this time to ensure our families have access to the beach and swimming amenities that define summer.

In May, I learned that various outdoor swimming facilities in Washington County were planning to scale back, or close completely, due to a shortage of trained lifeguards. I quickly reached out and connected with local leaders in Hartford, Kewaskum and West Bend and offered our help. Even with the county's help, unfortunately, Kewaskum and West Bend were not able to develop a plan that could be implemented in time for summer swimming. We were, however, able to work with Hartford to increase lifeguard pay and provide some additional incentives.

We are offering every household of Washington County an opportunity for "resident" admission at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center in Hartford, and West Bend-YMCA Family Adventure Pool - see page 3 for details and **clip the coupon!** In addition, admission will be \$2.50 at three county water facilities - Sandy Knoll (Town of Trenton); Yahr (Town of Farmington); and Ackerman's Grove (Little Cedar Lake). I hope your family will enjoy all the magic of hot summer days at the pool or beach.

Continued on next page



County Executive Josh Schoemann held a news conference to announce Saving Summer Swim. He was joined by City of Hartford Mayor Tim Michalak and Parks Director Mike Hermann, and Kettle Moraine YMCA President Rob Johnson.

For you fiscal hawks out there, please know that I continue to protect your pocketbooks. Your county tax dollars are not being spent here. This unusual initiative is funded by the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which Congress set aside to help communities recover from the effects of a pandemic. I offer two important points: 1) This spending is limited to addressing this short-term predicament and is not a permanent county government program; and 2) Our federal friends say ARPA funds will be spent somewhere. These are unusual times and we have an opportunity to enhance our services.

As we must wait for these economic storm clouds to pass, let's enjoy our "authentic quality of life" brought to you by the shared values of *Our Great Community*. That discounted swim admission may not solve world economic challenges, but it will give us some much needed mental and physical rest and relaxation at an affordable price, and it will get us one day closer to better days ahead.

Josh Schoemann
County Executive

County Board's Corner - Serving Our Great Community

Jeffrey Schleif, County Board Chairman

Our 2022 County Board is at work on newly reconfigured standing committees and eager to tackle the issues facing Washington County. It has been just two months since the two-year term began, and I am humbled and honored to serve as the new county board chairman.

Improvements to the intersections at County Highway S, County Highway R, and State Highway 175 in the Town of Addison have been on the radar of the County Board of Supervisors. Intersection safety has been at the forefront of priorities of the county Public Works Committee since we adopted the intersection safety analysis report in 2019.

Upgrades to numerous intersections have been undertaken as a result of that report. We provided alternative plans for these intersections at a public meeting where over half of the County Board Supervisors attended to seek public input. The Public Works Committee is taking those comments into consideration when reviewing the alternatives. We are confident that the option chosen will increase traffic safety at these intersections for generations to come. We have a lot of talented and dedicated people, both on staff and on our committees. I'm confident we're going to make good decisions and make *Our Great Community* proud. We look forward to serving you!

WASHINGTON COUNTY RESIDENT

2022

SUMMER SWIM DAY PASS

Only valid for 2022 season

Pass required to obtain resident rates at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center in the City of Hartford or 50% off West Bend - YMCA Family Adventure Pool rates

• Name: _____

• Email: _____

• Address: _____



HARTFORD - VETERANS MEMORIAL AQUATIC CENTER

Hours

Regular Season: June 6th - August 14th

Monday - Friday 1:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday & Sunday 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursday Night Swim 8:00pm - 10:00pm



Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center



WEST BEND - YMCA FAMILY ADVENTURE POOL

Hours

Open Swim

Monday - Thursday 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am - 1:30pm

Saturday & Sunday 12:00pm - 3:00pm



West Bend YMCA - Family Adventure Pool



WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS

Hours

Parks

Daily 6:00am - 10:00pm

Office

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm



Leonard J. Yahr County Park



Sandy Knoll County Park



Ackerman's Grove County Park



NEED A RIDE?

If you need a ride to get to a swimming facility in the county, try one of our ride programs.



Scan the QR codes with a smart phone camera or visit www.washcowisco.gov/news to get more information.

Washington County 3rd Annual Juneteenth Day Celebration!



Photo, L-R: Pastor Robert Bell, Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Omari Maikowski, Hally Bowles, Noelle Braun and County Executive Josh Schoemann

We celebrated Freedom Day in the freest county in America! Washington County's 3rd Annual Juneteenth Day celebration, in recognition of the ending of slavery, was held on Sunday, June 19, at the Historic Washington County Courthouse.

Juneteenth Day became a federal holiday in June 2021.

The event dates to June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived at Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free. This was more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863.

"We began the Juneteenth Day celebration in Washington County because there is shared history where we can really build some connections and understanding. Juneteenth Day is an important cultural event because it not only helps us to remember the difficult history of enslavement in the United States, together with the service and sacrifice of those who fought and died for freedom, but also provides an opportunity for *Our Great Community* to celebrate its significance together," said County Executive Josh Schoemann.

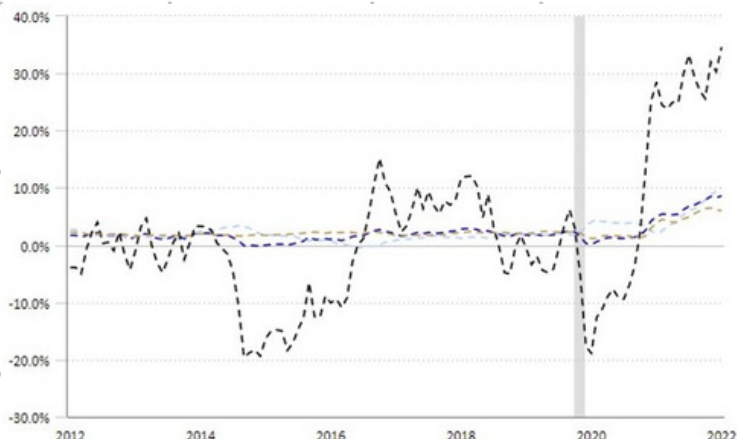
In addition to County Executive Schoemann's proclamation presentation, the Juneteenth Day program featured emcee Rev. Clarissa Martinelli of 5th Avenue United Methodist Church; guest speaker Pastor Robert Bell - Life Church-Milwaukee; singer Noelle Braun with Casa Guadalupe Education Center who sang the National Anthem and the hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing;" a poem, "I Am the Black Child," read by Omari Maikowski from Rockfield Elementary; and Hally Bowles from Germantown High School recited "Our Deepest Fear."

Pastor Bell shared his experience of growing up in Milwaukee with the excitement of the Juneteenth parade and horses, barbecues and music. He said, "There's nothing like freedom. Juneteenth wasn't designed for blacks only. It's a holiday designed for everybody."

Many thanks to the Juneteenth committee who put together a thoughtful, educational program!

Co-Chairs Julie Driscoll - Chief Health & Human Services Officer, Tarra Gundrum - County Executive's Office, Tammy Anderson - Director of Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Noelle Braun - Casa Guadalupe Education Center, Steve Thiry - West Bend Library, Bill Brewer - community volunteer, and Rev. Clarissa Martinelli - Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church.

County Hedges Against Inflation



From May 2021 to May 2022, the Consumer Price Index increased 8.6%, the largest 12-month increase since December 1981. County purchasing has become more challenging due to supply chain issues, price increases, and labor shortages.

With a fiscally conservative approach to biennial budgeting last year, county departments were encouraged to eliminate “just-in-case” increases. This ensured the county didn’t overtax our residents, but it also created a gap between budgeted costs and actual expenses. We are noting cost increases in ongoing operational purchases and in project purchases.

To address these increases, the county is creating an inflation contingency fund using unanticipated increases from sales tax revenues. This responsible approach allows us to sufficiently cover unplanned and unavoidable expenses.

Questions can be directed to Margaret M Hamers, Finance Director at AUDACH@washcowisco.gov.



County Partners with Farm Bureau to Host Used Tire Collection Day

On Thursday, August 25, from 1pm-7pm, Washington County residents can drop off used tires at the Washington County Fair Park, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend. The one-day tire collection allows for the disposal of used tires with the assurance they will be recycled properly.

Discarded tires on a farm or in a backyard are an ideal breeding ground for pests and a source of groundwater pollution. Improperly dumped tires create hazards in road ditches, edges of farm fields, and along fence lines. Disposing and recycling of tractor tires is especially challenging because of their composition of tough rubber and metal.

Disposal fees will apply and costs will vary depending on the size. The cost per tire (not on a rim) will range from \$4.00 for basic automobile tires, and up to \$100 for large farm tires. Detailed pricing is on the Washington County website, washcowisco.gov, or watch for information on the county Facebook page.

Building Social Capital Networks

Building networks of relationships among people who live and work together, creating close-knit connections and allowing that community to grow and thrive is vital to the success of Our Great Community!

How can you build close-knit connections?

- Volunteer
- Attend religious functions
- Vote in an election
- Participate in a club
- Host a game night
- Meet friends for dinner
- Talk with neighbors
- Belong to sports groups



Communities with an abundance of social capital tend to have:

- Less crime
- Less social isolation
- Higher rates of home ownership
- Lower poverty levels
- Greater trust in one another
- Higher education levels
- Lower unemployment rates
- Improved health and happiness

Neighbors, schools, churches, clubs, organizations, local governments, friends, and family come together to support each other ... this is what social capital is all about !

The County offers many opportunities to build long-lasting relationships that embody the meaning of social capital. If you have lived in Washington County for a period of time, there is a good chance you have already seen social capital in action. In times of tragedy and crisis, our community rallies around each other offering support.

Where Have All the Starter Homes Gone?

Why aren't we building these anymore?

Restrictive zoning policies, along with the move to larger minimum lot sizes, increased parking requirements, and other issues, these typical 1950s-1970s type of neighborhoods are not being built anymore.

Washington County and our communities are working together to revive the American Dream of homeownership

The Next Generation Housing (NGH) Initiative is working towards creating smaller attainable homes on smaller lots for our kids, grandkids, their friends and others to call home. This will give our children the same opportunities to purchase a home that generations before them had. The NGH Committee, a coalition of local governments and other key stakeholders, is breaking down the barriers to homeownership.

Our Purpose

- Create more entry-level homes so the next generation can afford to live and work here as they start their families.
- The Next Generation Housing Initiative wants to provide 1,000 new owner-occupied housing units in NGH Developments in the next decade.



SAVE THE DATE

August 8th • 4-9pm

Homestead Hollow County Park

Proceeds benefit the Washington
County Humane Society

HOPS & HOUNDS!



OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Listening Sessions with County Executive Josh Schoemann

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022



Coffee Conversations

7:30AM

Sawmill Inn, Richfield



Community Town Halls

9AM - Richfield Village Hall

10:30AM - Germantown Village Hall

Noon - Jackson Municipal Complex



Cheers and Chats

5 PM - Ackerman's

Grove, Tap Yard

Please join County Executive Josh Schoemann to voice your concerns, ask questions, or just listen!

Questions? Call 262-306-2200

For more details visit:

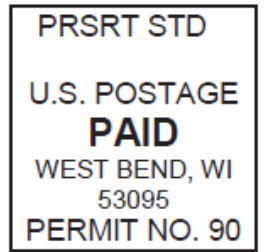
www.washcowisco.gov/departments/county_executive/events



SCAN ME



HERBERT J. TENNIES GOVERNMENT CENTER
432 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
WEST BEND, WI 53095



DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROSPER.



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