

OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Quarterly newsletter of Washington County, Wisconsin

DISCOVER. CONNECT. PROSPER.



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOSH SCHOEMANN**



Conserving Our Great Community

Through a clear vision and priorities, the County has been successful in removing tax dollar support for our parks and golf course, creating a self-sustaining operation. Yet, one of the reasons people live here is the high-quality amenities and natural resources. This year, I am keeping my promise to go from a “self-sustaining” park system to a ‘thriving’ park system.

In March, I had the honor to announce our first of many initiatives to make this a reality – the creation of an endowment fund, where disbursements will perpetually invest in improving and maintaining Washington County parks, trails, and golf. This endowment and an accompanying restrictive covenant marking our 283-acre Washington County Golf Course (WCGC) as an infinite public park is another extraordinary example of what makes Our Great Community so special. It is only after countless hours of work, months of discussions and collaboration, and amazing commitment from private individuals, organizations and businesses that we could step forward to collectively raise nearly \$3 million.

Accordingly, our public-private partnership will continue to work to secure and exceed an initial \$3 million fund. Once established, this fund will generate more than \$100,000 annually to support and improve County parks, trails, and golf. As this fund continues to grow, so will the distributions that are explicitly earmarked for our thriving parks system.

WCGC is a premier municipal golf course and continues to be recognized as a national gem for its breathtaking views, quality golfing experience and customer value. “Sports Illustrated” recently featured our course as “worthy of attention” to play for all those visiting Wisconsin. This latest public-private partnership will keep this gem an asset of Our Great Community for generations without the need for tax dollars.

2022 marks a milestone 25th season, and we plan to celebrate in a momentous way. As we secure a \$3 million endowment in our silver jubilee year, we invite you to raise your commemorative beer at WCGC and toast to Our Great Community. Here's to the best municipal golf course in America, which uses zero tax dollars to operate...Cheers! Visit us at www.golfwcgc.com for more information.

“Proudly Printed in Washington County by Quad”

Healthy Soil, Healthy Life

Many do not realize that only 10 percent of the Earth's land surface has suitable soil for producing our food supply, housing, cities, schools, hospitals, and through photosynthesis the air we breathe, and more. Our healthy life above ground depends upon healthy soil below our feet!

Healthy soils function as a vital living system that sustains plant, animal, and human. Conservation-minded farmers will tell you by utilizing no-till, cover crops, grazing animals, and varying crops, that they see a significant increase in soil organic carbon, water infiltration, and biological activity.

In February, the Cedar Creek Farmers - the County's local Producer-Led Watershed Protection Group - hosted a healthy soils no-till planter clinic that drew over 100 local farmers and agricultural professionals who had the desire to learn more about how they can utilize these practices to create healthier, more profitable soils on their farms.

A special "Thank You" to Cedar Creek Farmer speakers Stan Miller, Ross Bishop, Al Dornacker, Terry Kohl, Dave Polzin, and Paul Puestow for your leadership in farmer-to-farmer education.



Help Us Assess Internet Speeds in the County

The County has been evaluating the status of broadband or internet access for all citizens. To help us develop a greater understanding of internet speeds used by residents and businesses, we have developed a tool that allows us to collect information about the speed and location of your connection. This will allow us to see where we can seek out and invest our fair share of federal dollars to improve the County's internet infrastructure and what vendors we need to work with on this project.

From your home PC or laptop (not phone), using your browser, please go to <https://b.washcowisco.gov>. Following is a screenshot of the actual survey for review before participating:

Washington County Internet Speed Test

Please complete the survey for your primary home or work location. You can complete the survey more than once if you consistently access the internet from more than one location in Washington County. When performing the speed test, if possible, please do so from a computer connected directly to your network, not a mobile device on a cellular network.

Address:
(Please do NOT use a PO box)

City:

State: Zip Code:

Please answer the following questions:

Is internet service available at this location? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What kind of location is this?

Internet Service Provider:

What transmission technology does your internet connection use to send and receive data?

What kind of device are you using for this speed test?

Does your internet provider have higher speed packages that are more than your budget allows? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please list any other important details about your connection:

BY COMPLETING THIS SURVEY YOU ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED TO WASHINGTON COUNTY IS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE AND MAY BE USED TO CREATE A MAP THAT IS PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET AND ACCESSED BY THE PUBLIC.

NOTE: If you connect to the internet through a wireless router, the router might be slowing down the connection to the internet. If possible, connect directly to your cable modem or router.

Thank you in advance for helping us gather this important information! For further questions, please reach out to Dave Barber, Chief Administrative Officer, at dave.barber@washcowisco.gov.

Funding Issued for Body and Dash Cameras

After nearly a year of collaboration with the federal government, the County Sheriff's Office will receive a \$377,000 grant for obtaining the necessary hardware and data storage for body-worn cameras for deputies, as well as dash cameras for squad cars.

Under 2021 Wisconsin Act 185, the County will also apply for a matching state grant to ensure the County is fully funded in procuring these cameras. "We were fortunate to stay patient for this funding, versus tagging Washington County taxpayers with this expensive but necessary cost," said County Executive Schoemann. "This funding from state and federal government shares the cost with taxpayers nationwide, many of whom travel throughout and visit our County."



According to Sheriff Martin R. Schulteis, "Body cameras allow the community to see exactly what the officers are doing and promote transparency with the public we serve. Cameras improve both officer performance and civilian conduct; individuals act differently when they know they are being recorded."

Now that the President has signed the bill, the Senate and House Appropriations Committees will provide relevant agencies with a list of projects funded as Congressionally Directed Spending requests. Agencies are then required to produce an application that recipients must complete. After the application is completed and approved by the agency, processing of the funding can begin. All equipment will be installed in 2022.

For more information, please contact Sheriff Schulteis at marty.schulteis@washcowisco.gov.

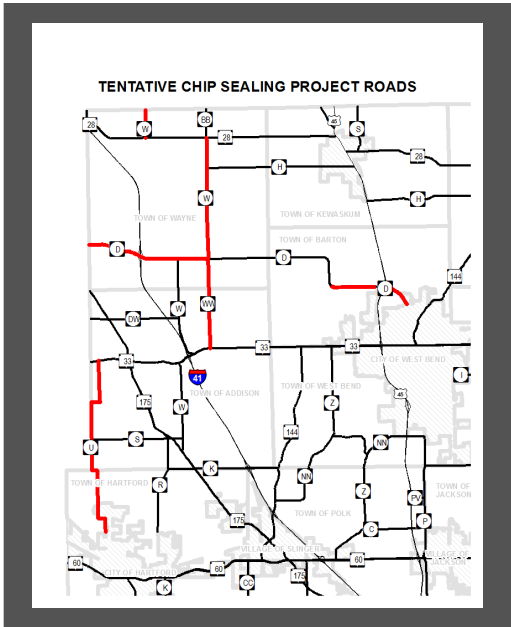
CTH Bridge to Open in May 2022

Only a few more weeks to go! Thank you for being patient as the bridge on County Highway H between US Highway 45 and State Highway 144 in the Town of Kewaskum has been closed and under construction since November 2021. The project currently remains on track for completion in May. The bridge will be worth the wait as it will include wider driving lanes, paved shoulders, and a separated multi-use path. The new bridge will be much safer than the original structure overall.



Chip Sealing Scheduled for Late June

The County Highway Department will be chip sealing a series of highways in the northwest quadrant of the County. Chip sealing involves the application of a layer of oil emulsion (a tar-like substance) followed by a layer of small aggregate gravel (chips), compaction, and sweeping. This practice is done to extend the lifespan of our highway pavement and therefore stretch your tax dollars.



Financing Helps Keep Weld-Fab Locally Owned

Submitted by: Sarah Stern, EDWC

For 32 years, Dawn and Art Hahn led and grew Slinger-based Weld-Fab Manufacturing into a thriving business. Weld-Fab manufactures high-quality metal fabrications, weldments and machined parts ranging in size from parts that will fit in your hand to parts that could fill a conference room. Established in 1990, Weld-Fab made its most recent expansion in 2002, adding fabrication of sheet metal products to their offerings along with welding and tube processing.

In a win for the Hahn's Weld-Fab employees and Our Great Community, they recently sold their business to fellow locals with extensive roots in manufacturing. With the help of financing from EDWC's Impact Loan Fund, Kelly Wendorff and Kale Wenzel closed on a deal at the end of 2021 to become the new owners of Weld-Fab.

Wendorff and Wenzel have years of experience working in manufacturing. It was perfect timing as the Hahn's were ready to move on to the next chapter, and were searching for the right opportunity. The new leadership at Weld-Fab is very optimistic about the growth potential of the company and hopes to double the size of the business over the next several years. With a passion for the local community, they look forward to continuing to contribute to the economic growth of the County.

At EDWC it is all about partnerships. According to Wendorff, "It felt like the team at EDWC was an extension of our team. Our deadlines became their deadlines. I was amazed at the above-and-beyond service and effort the team at EDWC put into our deal. They provided a level of service rarely seen in any industry." If you have a business looking to take that next step and need a partner in doing so, contact EDWC at 262-335-5769 or visit www.edwc.org.



How the County is Improving Access to Services for Mental Health & Substance Use

We all know people who struggle with their mental health, substance use, and suicidal thoughts. It can be difficult to reach out and get the support you may need or even know where to begin to find that support.

What came before
**doesn't have to control
what happens next.**

from substance use to mental health, let's talk.

changetheend.com →



In an effort to improve access to services, Washington County Health & Human Services, in partnership with Epic Creative and others throughout the County, has created a local landing page: **changetheend.com**.

Behavioral Health Open Access - If you or a loved one are in need of support, call 262-335-4600.

Struggling with an Opioid Addiction - Contact the substance use disorder team at 262-335-4600.

Running County Government More Like a Business

One key component to how the County seeks to achieve our goal of a "Well-governed and Administered County" is by fostering a culture of operational excellence, trust, and transparency. To that end, the County is taking a 'page' from many local successful private businesses by implementing EOS, or Entrepreneurial Operating System®.

EOS is a set of tools and concepts that help an organization define what is important, who is accountable for doing it and map out the plan to get there. The County has teamed up with EDWC to use EOS to enhance existing strategic planning efforts in a way that brings alignment to the organization and how it reports activity to stakeholders and constituents.

Concepts of EOS are described by Gino Wickman, in his best-selling book, "Traction: Get a Grip on Your Business". Wickman and the team at eosworldwide.com identify the benefits of EOS as Vision, Traction, and Healthy.

- Vision: getting everyone on the same page about the "what, where, and how." This is especially important when considering the diverse set of functions and mandates carried out by county government.
- Traction: knowing who does what and staying disciplined about organizational purpose means leadership can count on one another to fulfill their respective roles.
- Healthy: fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and vulnerability helps leaders become a more cohesive and functional team.

EOS has helped hundreds of thousands of businesses around the world clarify, simplify, and achieve their vision. Washington County is one of the first local governments in the country to adopt EOS principles.

For more information, please contact Aaron Daul, Director of Budget, Policy, & Analytics at aaron.daul@washcowisco.gov.



2nd Annual Ag Listening Session

In February, County Executive Schoemann and more than 30 local agricultural leaders met at the Washington County Fair Park & Conference Center.

The group discussed various topics including transportation, education, development/land use, community & wellbeing! We are looking forward to future discussions and collaboration. For more information, contact jamie.ludovic@washcowisco.gov.



Partnership Brings New Mountain Bike Trails

This spring, Heritage Trails County Park will open 3.5 miles of premier Kettle Moraine singletrack and flow style mountain bike trails, including several expert jumps and drops, which were designed and constructed by Metro MTB, a Greater Milwaukee mountain bike trail advocacy group. All three loops are bike-specific trails designed to help riders build their skills. Future plans include a dedicated jump line, bike park, more singletrack, and more flow. For more information and the status of the trail project, visit metromountainbikers.com.



Collaborative Transportation Network Planning

Back in 2017, at the height of a statewide movement to raise taxes called #JustFixIt, then County Administrator Schoemann and the County Board directed the County Highway Department to develop a transportation network sustainability plan designed to enhance safe traffic flow, ease congestion and ensure efficient mobility while improving and continuously investing in a safe, reliable, accessible and well-maintained transportation infrastructure; all without raising taxes. This first long-range transportation plan, known as the 2050 Transportation Network Sustainability Plan (TNSP), was adopted in early 2018.

The plan has evolved into an integral tool to map county highway improvements deep into the future while being backed by supportive budgeting. Due to the success of the planning effort, County Executive Schoemann wished to collaborate with all local governments in the County towards this worthwhile endeavor of transportation planning and offered to fund the development of the local TNSP's.

The Highway Department, with strong support from the County's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Information Technology departments, has developed an app-based tool that analyzes funding scenarios that are tied to a mapping component. When finalized, each participating local government will have their own tool to plug in their specific road conditions and estimated budget support and run scenarios to help them evaluate if they are on a good long-term path to providing a strong roadway system with proper financial support. The County has been working with the City of West Bend and Village of Kewaskum to complete their plans this summer. The County will be collaborating with other participating local governments over the next few years to complete plans that will help prioritize funding and create a unique Transportation Network Sustainability Plan for their roadway networks.



Save the Date
JUNETEENTH
June 19, 2022
3rd Annual Celebration



WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS

April - June Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT	PARK
Saturday, April 23 rd	Celebrate Trails Day	Washington County Trails
Saturday, May 7 th	Women's Mountain Biking Event	Heritage Trails
Friday, May 27 th	1840 Traveling Beer Garden Show	Homestead Hollow
Friday, June 10 th	1840 Traveling Beer Garden Show	Homestead Hollow
Thursday, June 30 th	Sounds at Sandy Knoll	Sandy Knoll

APRIL 2022 | VOL 4

OUR GREAT COMMUNITY

Several Opportunities to chat with County Executive Josh Schoemann



Coffee Conversations



Community Town Halls



Cheers and Chats



For more details visit:

www.washcowisco.gov/departments/county_executive/events



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