

Bayfield County Times

A Periodic Publication for County Municipal Officials

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2014 County Budget
- Wellness Initiatives
- Web Site Enhancements 2014
- Building Strong Libraries
- Rx Savings Program
- Land Records Mobile App
- Highway Cold Mix Available
- Cyber-Security
- County Clerk Reminders
- Forestry Timber Sale Revenues
- Compressed Natural Gas

Building Strong Libraries Program 2014

“Bayfield County has some of the strongest libraries in the region. Our goal with this program is to help them stay strong in the future” stated County Library Committee Chair Beth Meyers.

The Bayfield County Library Committee recommended the Building Strong Libraries Program to the County Board as part of the 2014 budget. This new program focuses on helping libraries improve and maintain library infrastructure by providing matching funds. In 2014 over \$18,000 was committed to the program. The Washburn and Cable/Namakgon Libraries will be recipients in 2014. Projects include window replacements in Washburn and the third phase of the Cable/Namakgon Solar HVAC project. All Bayfield County libraries are eligible to apply.

Program funding may be used for capital expenses including: site acquisition; new buildings, additions to or renovations, furnishings, equipment and initial collection (print, non-print and electronic) for new buildings, building additions, or building renovations; Computer hardware and software used to support library operations and other one-time major products.



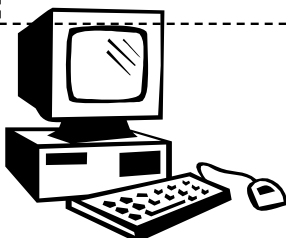
*Bayfield County Courthouse
Built 1908*

Bayfield County, NACO, Prescription Savings Card

Here is a quick way to save an average of 25% on your prescriptions. The National Association of Counties offers this Prescription Discount Card Program for participating counties around the nation. Savings have exceeded \$500 million the past eight years. More than 65,000 pharmacies participate, including all the major chains. The program is free, easy to start and everyone is eligible.

Since Bayfield County began offering the discount cards in July of 2006, over 1,800 Bayfield County residents have used the discount card with over \$42,000 in savings to date. Go to <http://www.naco.org/programs/residents/pages/pdcp.aspx> and print a card now, inquire at courthouse departments or call (715) 373-6181.

IMPORTANT Reminder to Towns: Whenever there are changes to ATV or Snowmobile Routes in your jurisdiction, be sure to notify the DNR, Sheriff's Department and the County Forestry office. Thank You.



**A Web of Information:
www.bayfieldcounty.org**

With New Functionality in 2014!

BAYFIELDCOUNTY.ORG

County departments are working feverishly to bring increased functionality to the county web site. The County wants to provide services in the most convenient manner possible. For some that means coming to the courthouse, talking with staff and getting your task accomplished. For others, filling out a form on the web from your kitchen at 8:30 in the evening is more convenient. Over the past several years the county has moved towards web based actions including; job application, firewood permits, plat book sales, detailed land information and land sales just to name a few.

In 2014 we are striving to expand the online services offered. Current projects underway include online zoning forms, county campground reservations and online wellness programs.

A group of county employees began meeting in early 2013. They identified priorities, including: transparency for citizens, Increased Civic Engagement, Ease of Use for both the webmasters and the general public, and full use of available technology.

Some enhancements that the public can anticipate with the roll-out of the new site in 2014 include: Emergency notifications (weather, road closures, etc), Single repository for Meeting Notices and Minutes, Enhanced County Calendar of Events/Meetings and Mobile Apps.

If you have suggestions send them to Paul Houck, Bayfield County IT Director at phouck@bayfieldcounty.org

County Wellness Initiatives

Bayfield County has strived to be a pioneer in the area of employee wellness. The County Health Department has made great progress with employee participation through programing alternatives incentives for employees. Using this experience as a base, the county will extend the wellness programs county-wide in 2014.

The Bayfield County Community Wellness Program will focus on improving the physical, social and environmental conditions that contribute to poor health. To accomplish this, we will work in partnership with individuals, communities and businesses to increase individual knowledge and skills, educate and mobilize communities, build coalitions, and advocate for changes in organizational and public policy.

Bayfield County's Community Wellness Program for 2014 will start with a **community wellness fair**

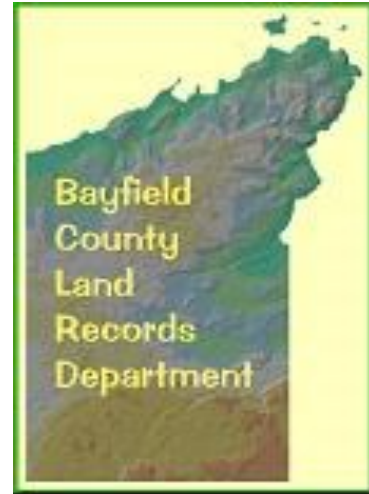
to be held at the St. Louis Catholic School in Washburn on February 13th, 2014 from 1:00-6:00 pm. Vendors from across the region will be present. The County is also looking into online wellness programs that the public can participate in via the internet. The programs will be geared toward physical activity, nutrition and overall personal wellness. Participants will be motivated by setting personal goals and by receiving incentive rewards. We are also in the process of developing a nutrition and physical activity coalition that will concentrate on environmental and policy change. If anyone is interested in any of the upcoming wellness activities please contact: Pete Morrisette at pmorrisette@bayfieldcounty.org for more details.

Introducing.....Mobile App for Land Records

The Bayfield County Land Records Department introduces their public mobile web mapping application!

The new application will allow users to: search property listings and parcel data; find property and tax records; create customized maps, including: aerial, topographical, hydrology, roads, address/building points, parcels; find/share GPS locations using Facebook, Twitter, and email. The application is compatible with PC, Mac, Android, Apple, and Blackberry devices.

Visit the site using the QR code:



Or...

<http://mobilemaps.bayfieldcounty.org/LandRecordsMobile/>

The Bayfield County Land Records Department will also host "GIS Day in Bayfield County," which took place on Wednesday, November 20th at the Bayfield County Courthouse. This event will showcase how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used throughout Bayfield County and included demonstrations on the new Land Records Mobile App, as well as an extensive map gallery, GIS videos, and trivia activities!

Cold Mix Patch Material Available Through the County Highway Department.

The Highway Department has ordered a tanker worth of **Bona-Fiber SC250 cold mix** patch material from Northwoods Paving. The material contains fiberglass and has proven to be very effective in staying put. Cost is \$76.64 per ton. This is the good stuff. If your town is interested please contact us at the Highway Department. 715-373-6115

Cyber-Security

Each October, Bayfield County recognizes National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) in the United States through our partnership with the Multi-State Information sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). Bayfield County also supports MS-ISAC nationwide to help all of us foster the concept of digital citizenship and promote standards of appropriate behavior as we become an increasingly digital society.

2013 marks 10 years of raising awareness of online safety and security issues and helping educate people about the best ways to protect their Internet-connected devices. The long-standing theme for NCASM, "*Our Shared Responsibility*," emphasizes the role that each of us—individuals, families, schools, organizations, industry, and government—can play in helping to create a safer digital world.

Make time throughout the year to take proactive steps to help safeguard you and your families' devices and information as you go online. Here's a list of activities to consider.

Take the 2013 Cyber Pledge. We invite you to join with thousands of other individuals across the country who are asserting their commitment to online safety. By signing the MS-ISAC National Cyber Pledge you are affirming that you will take security seriously and use good practices both at home and at work. <https://msisac.cisecurity.org/cyber-pledge/>

Visit <http://www.staysafeonline.org/> this website is a great source for those who want to keep themselves, their families and businesses safe online.

If you would like more information or have any questions, feel free to contact Paul Houck phouck@bayfieldcounty.org or 715-373-6319

County Clerk Reminders

- ◇ Notices of elections need to be published by November 26th for the Spring election, which takes place on April 1, 2014 and primary if necessary on February 18, 2014. Each voting jurisdiction is responsible for the notice for their races. The County Clerk is responsible for the Type A for county races and so on.
- ◇ The County budget is now passed and apportionment sheets were sent to clerks on November 15th via email. Please print those and confirm receipt to the County Clerk's Office so we can verify you received them.

Update on Bayfield County Forest Timber Sale Revenues and Township Payments

The Bayfield County Forest provides a wide variety of amenities to meet the diverse needs of the public. One primary objective is the sustainable production of quality forest products.

Every year, 10% of all net revenues collected from the sale of County Forest stumpage are distributed to Townships that contain County forestland. The payment is based upon the proportion of total County Forest acres located within each Town. It is important to note that the distribution of funds is not based upon where actual timber harvesting occurred. Ten percent of the total net timber sale receipts, regardless of where harvesting took place, are distributed to every Township based solely upon County Forest acreage located within each Township. For example, even if no harvesting took place in the Town of Clover, they would still receive funds based upon their share of the total receipts.

2013 was a banner year for revenues from the sale of wood. Over the past three years, Bayfield County made it a priority to maximize the sustainable production of timber on the County Forest. Numerous changes were made to accomplish this goal. It took some time, but we are now starting to see the fruits of our labor. The result: we are expecting roughly \$3.5 million in stumpage revenue in CY 2013. This is an increase of over \$1.3 million when compared to the average stumpage revenues collected prior to reorganization.

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of revenues to Townships that contain County Forest Land. The table includes shared revenues from the sale of wood (10% timber sales), payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) received from the State of Wisconsin, and revenues from the Bayfield County Forest Town Road Aid Grant (roughly 1% of sale of wood revenues, activated if we exceed budgeted sale of wood revenues):

Table 1: Average Annual Revenues per Township With County Forest Land (2010-2012)
Including Estimated CY 2013 10% Timber Sales Payment

Township	County Forest Acreage	Avg. Bayfield County 10% Timber Sales	DNR PILT* Payments (\$0.30/ac)	Avg. Bayfield County Town Road Aids	CY 2013 Estimated 10% Timber Sale Payment	Difference Between 2013 & Avg 10% Timber Sales
Barnes	39,362	\$51,620.62	\$11,808.60	\$4,805.66	\$81,304.85	\$29,684.23
Bayfield	32,793	\$43,017.18	\$9,837.90	\$3,805.27	\$67,736.14	\$24,718.96
Bayview	12,952	\$16,984.56	\$3,885.60	\$1,285.54	\$26,753.22	\$9,768.66
Bell	14,585	\$19,140.98	\$4,375.50	\$1,643.75	\$30,126.29	\$10,985.31
Cable	5,556	\$7,291.80	\$1,666.80	\$687.50	\$11,476.29	\$4,184.49
Clover	5,387	\$7,069.49	\$1,616.10	\$849.75	\$11,127.21	\$4,057.72
Hughes	24,057	\$31,568.16	\$7,217.10	\$2,396.12	\$49,691.35	\$18,123.19
Iron River	6,042	\$7,936.50	\$1,812.60	\$1,000.00	\$12,480.16	\$4,543.66
Oriente	4,720	\$6,202.48	\$1,416.00	\$1,245.00	\$9,749.48	\$3,547.00
Port Wing	8,876	\$11,649.10	\$2,662.80	\$1,024.50	\$18,333.97	\$6,684.87
Russell	8,571	\$11,248.94	\$2,571.30	\$1,150.00	\$17,703.97	\$6,455.03
Tripp	6,544	\$8,581.21	\$1,963.20	\$2,298.00	\$13,517.07	\$4,935.86
Total	169,445	\$222,311.02	\$50,833.50	\$22,191.09	\$350,000.00	\$127,688.98

*Payment in lieu of taxes made by the State of Wisconsin to each Township with County Forest acreage

From 2010 through 2012, Bayfield County annually distributed roughly \$222,000 from sale of wood revenues to Townships that contain County Forest Land. In CY 2013, Bayfield County will distribute an estimated \$350,000. That's an increase of nearly 58%. The difference between 2013 and the average 10% timber sale payments are also highlighted in Table 1. The difference represents the additional amount of money each Township will receive this year from timber sale revenue sharing when compared to the previous three year average.

Long term projections indicate stable to slight increases in future timber sale potential. If markets continue to stay constant, we anticipate timber sale revenues to hover between \$2.7 and \$3.2 million per year. Again, 10% of whatever we harvest goes back to the Townships with County Forest Land.

A GLIMPSE AT THE PLAN FOR 2014

What do four miles of highway reconstruction, scanning 90,000 pages of fragile records, a dam repair, two garages, a community wellness program and a new web site have to do with each other?

Yes, you guessed it! They are all part of the Bayfield County Budget for 2014.

Bayfield County has minimized levy increases over the past five years. Since 2009 the County tax levy has increased a total of 6%, an average increase of 1.2% per year. The majority of this jump will occur in 2014 with \$470,000 additional dollars being dedicated to highway reconstruction. In 2014 the County has budgeted over \$1 million for improvements on portions of County Highway G in the Towns of Eileen and Pilsen. The County plan is to complete the restoration of County Highway G in 2015.

Over 200 citizen responses were received in the County's first public budget survey in early 2013. Citizen top priorities were Highways, Law Enforcement, Land Use Planning, Emergency Management and Aging and Disability Services. The County Board's top five ranked services were identical with the exception of County Forest Management replacing Emergency Management Services. The 2014 budget emphasizes these priorities. Brett Rondeau, Chair of the County Executive Committee in charge of the annual budget said "This was the first year we have done a community budget survey, it was heartening to see how similar resident priorities and county board priorities are".

Despite levy limits and three years of levy freezes, combined with dropping property values, declining state transportation aids and lower sales tax revenues, the county is still on solid financial ground. This is due to several factors. Increased revenue generation in the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department has more than offset economic condition impacts. Grant writing in Health, Land Conservation, Emergency Management, Land Records, Forestry, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement and Extension account for significant new revenues to the County. On the expenditure side, across-the-board departmental cost controls, stabilization of health insurance costs (the county will have a minus 3% rate adjustment in 2014!), reductions in employee benefit expenses as a result of changes in state law and local policies, and utility cost controls are just a few of the many efforts that have helped hold down costs.



New programs and efforts in 2014 will help position the county and residents to succeed in the coming year. A few of these innovations include:

Telehealth: The Bayfield County Veterans Service Office and Health Department are working on opportunities for local residents to receive certain health services via interactive video.

Mobile Apps in Land Records: Mapping is one of the most heavily utilized service the county provides. The department is preparing release of mobile mapping applications providing data and resources available for workers in the field.

Building Strong Libraries Program: A new program in 2014 will provide supplemental funding to two county libraries for infrastructure investments.

Budget...continued from page 6

Evidenced-Based Programs: Numerous departments including Criminal Justice, Human Services, the County Prosecutor and Courts and Law Enforcement are using programs and methods that are proven to work. In Human Services new juvenile assessment techniques are being implemented. Other new assessment tools and programs are being utilized by the District Attorney, Judge, Sheriff's Department and Criminal Justice workers. These efforts focus on "what works".

As mentioned above, the new web site will be released in early 2014 allowing residents to "engage" the county via the web; saving time and effort.

These programs complement the basic services Bayfield County is committed to providing.

Any budget is designed to get business done, but no one says you can't have fun at it. The County Board is 100% committed to an entertaining and successful county fair. "Investing in our youth and providing top quality entertainment for Bayfield County residents is important to us," stated Dee Kittleson, Bayfield County Supervisor and Fair Committee Chair.

The County values and needs citizen input. If you have ideas for the current or future budgets contact Mark Abeles-Allison, County Administrator at markaa@bayfieldcounty.org. The 2014 Bayfield County budget is online and available for viewing at www.bayfieldcounty.org/budget

Meeting Request: Discussion on Timber Management and the Use of Town Roads. (continued from page 5)

There is no doubt that timber harvesting activities have an impact on Town Roads. As we increase production to meet our sustainable goals, we will also increase the use of local roads.

I am attempting to put together a meeting to discuss timber management and the use of Town Roads. The target audience would be Town Chairs and/or Town Road Foreman and representatives from the Forestry and Parks Department and Committee. The goal of the meeting would be to identify/address known issues and plan for future road use. I also expect additional meetings that would incorporate the viewpoints and concerns of loggers and the forest industry.

In an attempt to accommodate scheduling conflicts, I am planning on having a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday December 3rd. The meeting will take place at the courthouse in Washburn. If you are interested, please contact me (Jason Bodine) at 715-373-6114 or email at jbodine@bayfieldcounty.org

We all benefit from the existence of public forest land. Whether through the sustainable production of timber, or offering a plethora of recreational and hunting opportunities, or providing a diversity of wildlife habitat and watershed protection, or giving someone a place to recharge and absorb the beauty of the natural environment, in some way, shape or form, the Bayfield County Forest impacts us all.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels (home delivered meals) program, a well-known Older Americans Act service, is a service that can be accessed with minimal program criteria or eligibility standards. Because of this, many older adults and/or their family members often times seek support first from this program to help address nutritional needs and rely upon Meals on Wheels as a primary source of support. It has been seen as a key gap-filling service for individuals who, for whatever reason, may not be able to access other services. Participation requires an initial telephone interview and an in-home assessment.

For a person to receive Meals on Wheels, they need to be:

- Age 60 or older, frail and essentially homebound by reason of illness, disability, or isolation and has no support for meal preparation or obtaining food;
- A spouse of a person eligible for HDM's regardless of age or condition, if the assessment concludes that this is in the best interest of the homebound older individual; or
- A disabled individual who resides at home with an eligible individual.

Meals on Wheels are funded with Federal, state and county dollars and program participant donations. Meals are provided on a donation basis and each funding source is very important in keeping the program viable and to continue providing the current level of service.

All meals are carefully planned to include a variety of foods that provide at least 33% of the recommended daily amounts for older adults. Attention is given to food selection & preparation to reduce fat, sugar & sodium to allow many persons with health problems to work these meals into their special diets.

Please call Bayfield County Aging and Disability Services to discuss your needs at 715- 373-6144.



Bayfield County

117 East Fifth Street

PO Box 878

Washburn, WI 54891

Phone: 715-373-6181

Fax: 715-373-6183

Email: KKavajecz@Bayfieldcounty.org

or

MarkAA@Bayfieldcounty.org

*Serving the Citizens of
Bayfield County*



Compressed Natural Gas Paying Off

In 2012, the county installed a Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station. Over the last year, the county introduced seven fleet vehicles that use Compressed Natural Gas. Funding for this initiative was received through the Wisconsin Clean Transportation Program. Vehicles in the program include: fleet cars, Forestry and Land Conservation trucks, and one Sheriff's Department Truck. Most of the trucks are duel fuel, meaning they operate on both natural gas and regular gasoline.

We have completed our first year and so far have used 3,414 gallons of Compressed Natural Gas. Average cost savings when using the county fueling station is approximately \$2.50 per gallon. When fueling on the road, savings are approximately \$1.50 per gallon. Over \$12,000 in fuel costs have been saved so far.

Advantages of Compressed Natural Gas include lower fuel costs and lower emissions.

