



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 3 | Fourth Quarter 2016



9th Annual All Employee Appreciation Picnic

By Adam Payne

This year's All Employee Appreciation Picnic was held at the beautiful Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center. A record number of employees attended and witnessed the inaugural air jam contest. Three teams participated, and Rocky Knoll rocked the house to take home the trophy! I want to thank my fellow band members: Rachele Valleskey, Tim Chisholm, Carla Darrah, Stacy Wagner, Deb Jacoby, Pamela Zastrow, Eva Nechodomu, Cortney Munz, Patricia Walsdorf, Jean Gallimore, Penny Elsner, Michelle Roenitz, Marcia Schreiber, Kortnei Ames, Alyssa Worth, Greg Schnell, Aaron Brault, Jim TeBeest, Chris Lewinski, Tom Eggebrecht, and Todd Priebe. It was terrific to see everyone let their hair down and bring on all the smiles and laughter!

If you weren't able to attend this year, I sure hope you will plan to join us next year. I also want to thank and acknowledge my assistant Alayne Bosman for doing a great job coordinating the event, and Mark Schorer for once again being our DJ.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all County employees for your dedication, hard work, and helping make good things happen.

Retirees

*Thank you for your years of service!
We wish you the best!*

James Lubach
Jean Beinemann
Susan Cortinaz
Brenda Giese

Daniel Knitt
Vicki Weigel
Gary Hau

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 1** 9th Annual All Employee Appreciation Picnic

- 1** Retirees

- 2** Emergency Management Planning

- 2** Sheboygan County Clothing Orders Being Taken

- 3** Sheboygan Ring of Fiber Operational this Fall

- 3** Sheboygan Area Veterans Treatment Court - One Veteran at a Time

- 4** District Attorney Retiring

All newsletters for County employees can be found online at www.sheboygancounty.com

For more information contact Alayne Bosman, Newsletter Editor

Emergency Management Planning

By Jean Gallimore, Human Resources Director

Over the past few years Sheboygan County has focused additional resources to enhance the safety of our employees, guests and facilities as a whole. Our objective is to train and prepare Sheboygan County employees in the event of an unexpected crisis, such as emergency evacuation, active threat, emergency notification systems, robbery, lock down or shelter in place. Below is a summary three key safety initiatives:

SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Objective: *To promote and help provide a safe work environment for all employees and guests. We pledge to foster a positive and proactive safety culture across the organization by way of employee feedback, continuous development, communication and training of standardized policies and procedures.*

Committee: *Jean Gallimore, Steve Steinhardt, Alayne Bosman, Julie Bueter, Tim Chisholm, Jon Dolson, Jayne Dragan, Bruce Edwards, Laura Henning-Lorenz, Lynette Kirsch, Carla Kovalaske, Mark Leibham, Patrick Leichtnam, Shannon Otten, Todd Priebe, Bernie Rammer, Mark Richter, Todd Richter, Linda Robson, Michelle Roenitz, Susan Schaubel, Ellen Schleicher, Marcia Schreiber, Brett Zemba*

The Committee meets quarterly to discuss any concerns as well as keep current all safety policies and procedures within the county.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY AD-HOC COMMITTEE:

Objective: *Evaluate Sheboygan County Courthouse safety and suggest opportunities for improvement.*

Committee: *Jean Gallimore, Steve Steinhardt, Alayne Bosman, Bruce Edwards, Carla Kovalaske, Chris Lewinski, Melody Lorge, Todd Priebe, Todd Richter, Jim Risseeuw, Michelle Roenitz, Jim TeBeest, Tom Wegner, Robert Ziegelbauer*

In January 2016 the County Administrator appointed this committee to evaluate our Courthouse security and suggest opportunities for improvement. A security safety survey was distributed to all Courthouse employees, with a 90% response rate in favor of "one secured entrance". A final report was presented to the County Administrator in June, and Courthouse security enhancements were subsequently included and have now been approved as part of the County's Five Year Capital Plan. Work will commence on the courthouse entrance in 2017.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/ACTIVE THREAT COMMITTEE:

Objective: *To provide individualized departmental safety training. This interactive training will help prepare Sheboygan County employees in the event of an unexpected crisis in areas of active shooter, lock down or lock out.*

Committee: *Jean Gallimore, Michelle Roenitz, Steve Steinhardt, Bruce Edwards*

Fall 2015:

- County Building and Department tours with Department Heads and Committee to discuss emergency management strategies.
- CRASE Training (Civilian Response to Active Shooter). Training delivered to department heads by Sheriff's Department personnel.

Spring 2016:

- All employees viewed CRASE training video.
- Department Head and Committee visited county buildings to develop an Emergency Action Plan.

Fall 2016:

- Department Heads to discuss their department specific Emergency Action Plan with employees at staff meetings, prior to the Active Threat Drills.
- Active threat drills to be held at county buildings, to be facilitated by the Sheriff Department. Details and dates to be announced soon.

Sheboygan County Clothing Orders Being Taken

By Alayne Bosman, Assistant to the County Administrator

Summer has officially come to an end and the holidays are right around the corner. If you would like to purchase clothing with the Sheboygan County logo on it, please contact me by Friday, November 18th. The website for placing an order is: www.companycasuals.com/scemployees/start.jsp

Please let me know if you need help navigating the website, if there is something you are interested in that you don't see on the website, or if you have a question about the sizing of a particular item. Items will be delivered by December 9th in plenty of time for Christmas!



Sheboygan Ring of Fiber Operational this Fall

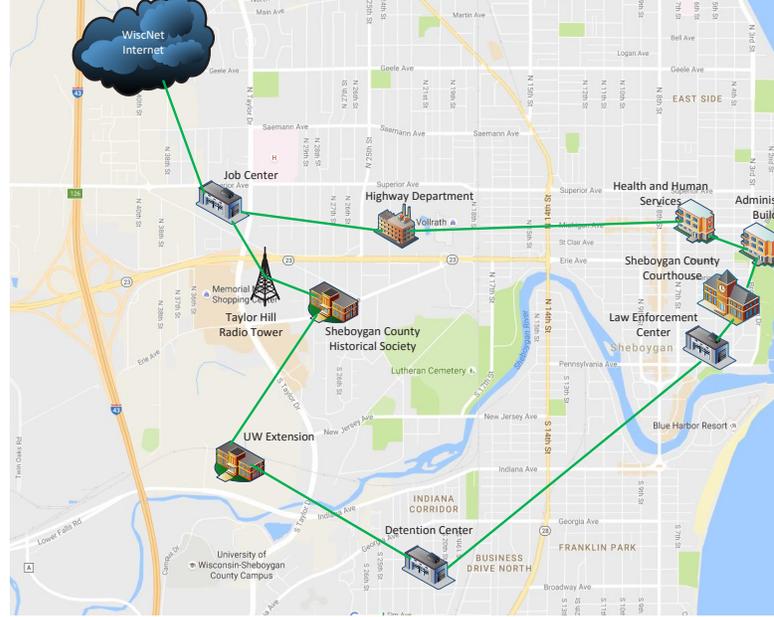
By Chris Lewinski, Information Technology Director

After two years of planning and nearly a year of construction, the Sheboygan County Ring of Fiber network will be in operation this fall. The network is comprised of 23 miles of underground fiber optic cable and is shared between Sheboygan County, the City of Sheboygan, and the Sheboygan Area School District. The concept for the Ring of Fiber was borne of a shared necessity for increased network speed and reliability by all three partners.

For Sheboygan County, the Ring of Fiber will directly connect all but three of its facilities (Sheboygan County Memorial Airport, the Aging & Disability Resource Center, and Rocky Knoll Health Care Center, each of whom have their own separate internet connections) and vastly improve network reliability for a number of County facilities. Those facilities (Highway Department, Division of Economic Support at the Sheboygan Job Center, the Sheboygan County Historical Museum, the University of Wisconsin Extension Office and the Detention Center) currently connect to the County network wirelessly by using tower-mounted data radios. These aging radios are no longer reliable, oftentimes losing connection to the network during times of heavy rain or snowfall.

Connecting nearly all County facilities via underground fiber optic cable also provides a marked increase in network speed, which will directly support County operations as more computer systems and applications move to the Cloud. Further, the Ring of Fiber protects against damage to the network; if fiber is accidentally cut on one part of the Ring (by someone excavating in its proximity), network traffic will automatically redirect until such time as a repair can be made, and County facilities will not experience a network outage.

The project cost was shared equally among the three partners, and is an investment that will serve the County, City and School District well into the future. The life span of fiber optic cable is approximately 40 years. During that time, the cost-savings from not needing to utilize private network providers (AT&T or Charter, for example) will more than pay for the \$2.5 million construction of the Ring, while providing Sheboygan County with 21st Century network connectivity, reliability and enhanced service delivery to its citizens.



Sheboygan Area Veterans Treatment Court - One Veteran at a Time

By Charlene Cobb, Veteran's Service Officer

This September marks four years since Sheboygan County established the Sheboygan Area Veterans Treatment Court (SAVTC). It took nearly two years of planning and coordination and a lot of hard work to make it happen. SAVTC could not have happened without the support of the Sheboygan County Board, the County Administrator and Department Heads, local municipalities, and the surrounding counties of Manitowoc, Calumet, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Washington and Ozaukee. As an area Court, we accept eligible veterans from these municipalities as well.

To date we have had fourteen veterans graduate from the program, and it is changing people's lives for the better. This would not have been possible without our dedicated team. I would like to highlight three individuals who have been involved since its inception that impress me immensely by their devotion and willingness to go above and beyond for our Veteran's Court participants.

From the beginning we have had the commitment of the Honorable Judge Angela Sutkiewicz, Assistant District Attorney Joel Urmanski, and Public Defender Pat Adelman. These key leaders are not veterans themselves, but have an intense desire to give back to the veteran community. They spend an enormous amount of time prior to Court looking through records and notes in preparation, all of which is done in addition to their regular duties. They are very thoughtful in their deliberations and it is evident they care deeply about what they are doing. It is an honor to be involved with a team that brings such professionalism and compassion to helping our Veterans find their way back.

Our graduates have said, "I don't know where I would be if I hadn't gone through Veterans Court." "It is because of Veterans Court that I am looking forward to a wonderful future." "Veterans Treatment Court is a second chance to get your life back."

SAVTC is celebrating four years of helping 'one veteran at a time', and I encourage you to join me in thanking the Honorable Judge Sutkiewicz, District Attorney Urmanski, and Public Defender Adelman for their dedicated public service and leadership in the community.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHEBOYGAN, WI
PERMIT NO. 116

District Attorney Retiring

By Joe DeCecco



So I'm living in my native Rhode Island, minding my own business, employed at a local hospital in its Emergency Room and ICU as well as assigned to the town's primary EMS rescue squad. I would have been classified as a paramedic had that classification existed then, but was certified as a "Mobile Intensive Care Specialist" or "MIC" for short. I had been in that job for about 13 years after having worked as an Nuclear Regulatory Inspector at a defense plant that built nuclear attack submarines, a job I got after I served a two year stint working for the Peace Corps as a well digger in Africa.

What set me on this law path was a subpoena to testify against a patient involved in a car crash who was unresponsive when police and hospital personnel were present but remarkably came out of it when only family members were there and then lapsed into his "coma" when the former entered the treatment room.

That experience prompted me to apply to law school, but I needed to finish my undergraduate degree at Boston University first, and they cancelled all classes and exams my senior year due to the Kent State campus shootings, leaving me a few credits short for graduation. I managed to finish the required credits in 1985, took the Law School entrance exam and was accepted into UW-Madison Law School in 1986, graduating in 1989 at the young age of 39. I was hired as an Assistant District Attorney in Sheboygan County on September 5, 1989. In November 2002 I was elected District Attorney.

27 years later, I have no regrets. While I still miss my native New England, I plan to remain in Sheboygan County and continue my part-time teaching duties which I have done for several years now. I plan to visit friends and family more often and see the sights of this country. While there is a considerable sadness in leaving so many incredible people I have worked with over the years, who I will miss dearly, I am looking forward to getting out of the grind of prosecution.

My last day will be January 2nd at midnight.