

April 8, 2016

Townsend Centennial

On Saturday, I had the honor of attending the town of Townsend's Centennial celebration on April 4. Members of the town gathered at the Old Town Restaurant in Townsend to reenact the towns founding meeting from 1916.



Representative Jeff Mursau and I presented members of the town board a Proclamation commemorating Townsend and its contributions to our great state. More events have been planned throughout the remainder of the year to celebrate the towns 100th birthday such as the history of Townsend reading and presentation of the centennial quilt on May 29 at the town hall.

I want to commend Kathleen Marsh for her hard work turning the minutes from Townsend's first meeting into a script and for her coordination on many of the other centennial events. I also want to thank the Centennial Committee for their work over the last two years planning events to commemorate the occasion.

To see more photos from the event and find info on upcoming events, you can visit the [Townsend Centennial Facebook Page](#) or the [Town's Official website](#).

City of Rhinelander Groundbreaking

On Tuesday, I attended the City of Rhinelander Streetscape ceremonial groundbreaking with several Rhinelander City officials.



(Photo credit: [WJFW](#))

The Rhinelander Streetscape project is a \$10 million endeavor to upgrade a large portion of the infrastructure in Rhinelander.

The city received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) from the Department of Administration and a combined total of \$4.667 million from the Department of Natural Resources through the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. In addition, USDA Rural Development approved a \$3.754 million loan and grant combination toward the project through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs.

Wisconsin Public Service Commission Announces Next Round of Broadband Expansion Grants

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has announced the next round of Broadband Expansion Grants. In the previous biennial budget, \$1.5 million was allocated for broadband grants. The Broadband Expansion Grant program provides reimbursement for equipment and construction expenses incurred to extend or improve broadband telecommunications service in underserved areas of the state. An application for a grant may be submitted by any of the following entities:

1. An organization operated for profit or not for profit, including a cooperative.
2. A telecommunications utility.
3. A city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility.

Grant applications are due no later than 4:00 pm on June 16, 2016.

New this grant cycle -- Grant Writing Workshops

The PSC and UW-Extension will sponsor a series of workshops around the state to provide information and answer

questions regarding the Broadband grant program.

To register, please RSVP [here](#).

April 12, 2016

9:00 - 11:30 am

Eagle River Northwoods Center

115 S 3rd St.

Eagle River, WI

April 18, 2016

9:00 - 11:30 am

Suring Red Maple Golf Course

501 Golf Course Rd.

Suring, WI

May 4, 2016

10:00 - 11:30 am

Online Webinar: [Link](#)

Maple Syrup!

Last Friday, I had a tour of LumberJack Log Homes located in Armstrong Creek. The Kowalkoskis, who own the business, also produce Lumberjack Maple Syrup. Dave and Patty's son, Kevin, has recently joined the business and they are planning on expanding!



(Pictured above: Dave Kowalkoski , Sen. Tiffany, Patty Kowalkoski , Kevin Kowalkoski and their new evaporator in the background)

Wisconsin is one of the top maple syrup producers in the country and I wanted to share some interesting facts about the product.

MAPLE FACTS (via the [Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association](#))

- Pure maple syrup is only made on a commercial scale in North America – nowhere else in world.
- Maple syrup is generally produced in the states and provinces that surround the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Maple sap is collected in the early spring, when temperatures get below freezing at night and above freezing during the day.
- It takes approximately 40 gallons of maple sap from the trees to make one gallon of pure maple syrup.
- Nothing is added to the sap, only water is evaporated away, to make pure maple syrup.
- Once concentrated to the correct density, pure maple syrup is filtered and “hot pack”- bottled.
- A tree large enough to tap can be re-tapped year after year, although a new tap hole must be drilled each season.
- Each tap can yield up to 10+ gallons of sap per season on a gravity system, resulting in approximately one quart of finished syrup.
- Vacuum collection systems will yield approximately twice the sap of a gravity system.
- Pure maple syrup is a great natural food. It contains no preservatives, colorings or other additives.
- A gallon of maple syrup weighs 11 pounds compared to 8 pounds for a gallon of water.
- There are three classes of Grade-A pure maple syrup as set by the USDA: Light Amber, Medium Amber and Dark Amber.

300K Conceal Carry Permits

On March 24, the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Criminal Information Bureau’s Firearm Unit issued the 300,000th concealed carry permit. Wisconsin’s concealed carry permit program has been a huge success since it began in 2011. The number of concealed carry permit applications in Wisconsin is continuously increasing and has hit record highs in recent months.

Since January 1 of this year, over 19,000 concealed carry applications were processed in Wisconsin, and 46,658 background checks were completed.

Last year, over 45,000 concealed carry applications were processed, and 131,648 background checks were completed.

If you’d like more information on applying for a concealed carry permit, please click [here](#).

Trumpeter Swan Population Booming

According to the annual DNR spring duck survey, Wisconsin has seen a large increase in the population of trumpeter swans. Removed from the endangered species list in 2009, trumpeter swans are the largest native waterfowl in the United States, weighing 25 pounds or more. The survey found a total of 4,695 trumpeter swans in Wisconsin - up from 672 in 2010. The swans mostly reside in the northwestern part of the state, but can be found in 27 counties in Wisconsin.



(Photo: DNR Staff)

The species was reintroduced in the state in the late 1980s after being largely hunted in previous decades. The eggs were brought from Alaska between 1989 and 1997, and were hatched in various places in Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee County Zoo. With this large spike in population over the last few years, it seems that the swans are adjusting quite well to their new home. Keep an eye out for these beautiful birds next time you are out near the water.

Thank You DOT Staff

Many of you may have heard, but last Friday there was a statewide network outage that impacted the system that serves the DMV, and it prevented the issuance of driver licenses and IDs for just under three hours. In response, DMV service centers extended their hours on Saturday to accommodate individuals seeking to obtain an ID.

With the election held on Tuesday, I want to extend my thanks to the DOT/DMV staff that worked the extra hours over the weekend to ensure that citizens of Wisconsin had the opportunity to obtain an ID.

I also want to commend the 2.1 million Wisconsin residents who turned out to vote! The 47% turnout was the highest for a presidential primary since 1972.

No Musky for Lake Metonga

The DNR is no longer going forward with a proposal to stock musky in Lake Metonga. This decision follows a well attended, and somewhat contentious, public meeting held at Crandon High School. Of the 179 attendees, 162 of voted against the plan to introduce musky.

The plan, according to the DNR, was to stock Lake Metonga with musky fingerlings to help control the population of white suckers in the lake, while potentially drawing more fishermen to the area.

However, some felt that introducing musky to Lake Metonga would hurt the populations of other fish - like perch and walleye. Others believed that loons may fall prey to the fish. In the end, the DNR has backed off from its plan to stock the lake with musky.

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
April 13	<u>VFW Hamburger Night</u>	Eagle River
April 23	<u>Hodag Hops and Vines Microbrew and Wine Tasting</u>	Rhineland
April 28	<u>Taste of the North</u>	Minocqua
April 30	<u>History Hunt</u>	Merrill
May 7	<u>Martinis in May</u>	St. Germain
May 7	<u>Colors of Cancer 5K</u>	Crandon
May 7	<u>Community Kolor Run</u>	Merrill
May 13 - 15	<u>Chamber Walleye Tournament</u>	Presque Isle
May 28	<u>Main Street Memories Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet</u>	Tomahawk
May 29	<u>Main Street Memories Car Show</u>	Tomahawk
May 29	<u>18th Annual McCaslin Lioness Faire</u>	Lakewood

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

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State Capitol Room 409 South- PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53708
(608) 266-2509
Email: Sen.Tiffany@legis.wi.gov